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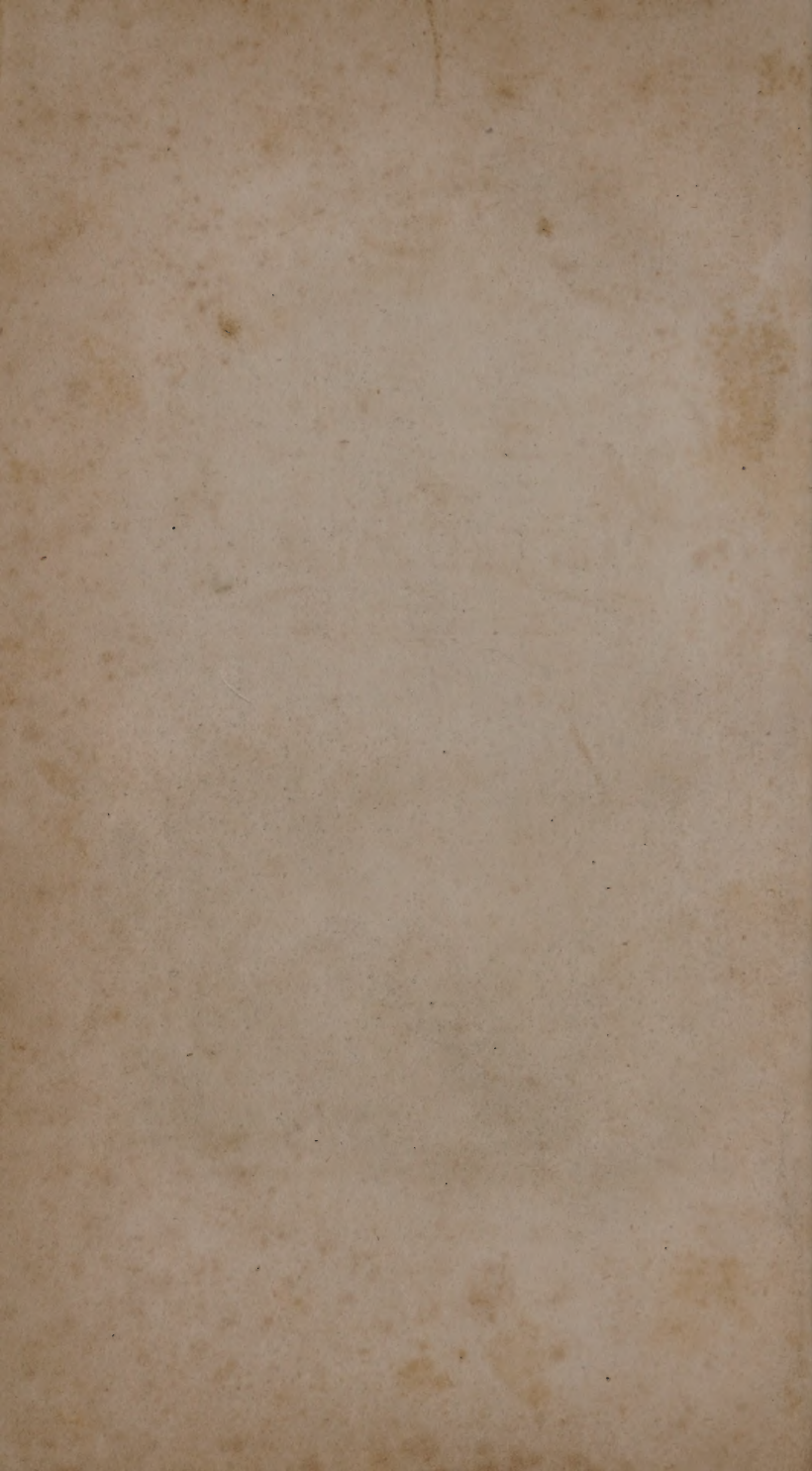
LION.

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THE
NATURALIST'S CABINET
OF
Interesting Sketches
OF
Animal History
VOL. I.



Published by James Cundee?
London.



THE
NATURALIST'S
CABINET:

Containing
INTERESTING SKETCHES

OF
ANIMAL HISTORY;

Illustrative of the
NATURES, DISPOSITIONS, MANNERS, AND HABITS,
OF ALL THE MOST REMARKABLE
Quadrupeds, Birds, Fishes, Amphibia, Reptiles, &c.
IN THE KNOWN WORLD.

REGULARLY ARRANGED, AND ENRICHED WITH NUMEROUS
BEAUTIFUL DESCRIPTIVE ENGRAVINGS.

"Who can this field of miracles survey,
And not with *Galen* all in rapture say,
Behold a *God*, adore him, and obey?"

BLACKMORE.

IN FOUR VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

BY THE
REV. THOMAS SMITH,

Editor of a New and Improved Edition of Whiston's *Josephus*, &c. &c.

ALBION PRESS PRINTED:

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1806.



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INTRODUCTION.

AMONG the numerous subjects that are continually issuing from the press, few are of greater utility than such as relate to Natural History—a science equally calculated to gratify a laudable curiosity, to afford an unfailing source of amusement, and to impress the mind with the most exalted ideas of that Divine Being, by whose eternal fiat the universe was brought into existence, and by whose infinite power and love the lives of his creatures are preserved, and their wants abundantly supplied.

To the junior classes of society (as well as to readers in general) the study of Animal History seems peculiarly adapted; as every branch of it is replete with instruction, and the contemplation of every object which it exhibits, tends to ameliorate the

heart, to illumine the understanding, and insensibly to allure to further research and investigation.

In many instances, it must be acknowledged, this fascinating science has appeared under the most uninviting forms; and the Fair Sex, in particular, have been deterred from the perusal of volumes which were, in some parts, offensive to the eye of female modesty. But in the NATURALIST'S CABINET the most unremitting attention has been paid to obviate these objections, and the Editor can affirm, with conscious satisfaction, that the following pages are unsullied by a single sentence which might excite a blush, or contaminate, even in the slightest degree, the purest and most delicate mind.

The work now respectfully submitted to the public, though not professedly systematic in its arrangement, is divided into four distinct classes—Quadrupeds—Birds—Fishes and Amphibia—Reptiles and Insects; each class designed to form a volume, and the whole embellished with beautiful engravings, from original designs, on an entire new plan, and illustrative of the most curious anecdotes related in the course of the work.

It only remains to add, that the usual descriptions of form, size, colour, &c. are given in a compendious manner, and the body of the work is consequently occupied by such accounts of the manners, habits, and modes of life, of the several classes of animal creation, as appeared most likely to attract the attention of the reader, and to render the subject generally interesting and instructive.



THE
Naturalist' Cabinet.

CHAP. I.

"What if the lion in his rage I meet!—
Oft in the dust I view his printed feet!
And fearful, oft, when day's declining light,
Yields his pale empire to the mournful night,
By hunger rous'd, he scours the groaning plain,
Gaunt wolves, and sullen tigers in his train;
Before them death, with shrieks, directs their way,
Fills the wild yell, and leads them to their prey."

COLLINS.

THE LION.

Majestic appearance of the king of animals.

THE lion is considered as the king of animals, and has been judiciously chosen as a symbol of the British empire. It is justly remarked by a celebrated naturalist, that the outward form of this animal seems to denote the superiority of his internal qualities; for his figure is peculiarly striking; his countenance bold and commanding; his gait majestic, and his voice terrible. His body is not unwieldy, like that of the ele-

Form, colour, &c.—Maternal affection of the female.

phant or rhinoceros; nor his shape clumsy, like that of the bison, or hippopotamus; but in every respect he is compact and well proportioned, and unites the most surprising strength with the utmost agility.

The length of the lion varies from six to nine feet, and the height from three feet and a half to five feet, exclusive of the tail, which is nearly four feet long. The head is covered with long shaggy hair, and the neck is adorned with a pendent mane; but the hair on the rest of the body is short and smooth. The general colour is a pale tawny, inclining to white beneath.

The lioness is about one fourth smaller than the lion, and is destitute of that mane which constitutes so essentially to the majesty of her consort's appearance. The time of parturition is in the spring, when she retires to the most sequestered places, and produces four or five young, which at first, are about the size of a small pug dog, and continue at the teat nearly twelve months; though, during that time, they are taught to suck the blood and lacerate the flesh of such prey as the dam occasionally carries to her den.

The lioness is a perfect model of maternal affection; for though naturally weaker and less courageous than the male, yet, when she has young, she becomes equally formidable, and even more ferocious. She is extremely solicitous to conceal her place of retirement, for which pur-

Roaring of the lion—Symptoms of hunger or displeasure.

pose she often contrives to efface the prints of her feet; and sometimes conveys her cubs to another spot, when alarmed for their security. In their defence she becomes perfectly infuriate, exposing herself to the most imminent dangers; and attacking indiscriminately both men and animals. When robbed of her whelps, she has been known to pursue the depredators across the most rugged precipices, and even to follow them for some distance out to sea.

The roaring of the lion, when in quest of prey, resembles the sound of distant thunder. Being re-echoed by the rocks and mountains, it terrifies all the animals of the deserts, which seek their safety in a precipitate flight. He is said to devour as much at once as will suffice for two or three days, and when satiated, to remain in his den, which he seldom quits, unless to prowl about for prey. His teeth are so strong, that he breaks the bones of animals with perfect ease, and swallows them together with the flesh. His tongue is furnished with reversed prickles, so large and strong as to be capable of lacerating the skin. When enraged, or in want of food, he erects and shakes his mane, at the same time violently lashing his back and sides with his tail. In this state it is said to be certain death to any one who happens to approach him: but when his mane and tail are at rest, and the animal is in a placid humour, we are assured that travellers may in general pass near him with safety.

Deficiency of scent—Muscular strength.

He hunts only by the eye, his scent being less perfect than that of most other animals. It was probably this deficiency that proved the salvation of a modern traveller, on his perilous route through the interior of the African continent. Mr. Mungo Park relates, that as he was one day passing through a desert, he observed a huge lion stretched on the sand, reclining his bearded chin on his broad extended paws, and with his eyes scarcely closed, dosing in the burning sun. Though he was not a little alarmed at this unexpected sight, he had, however, the presence of mind to turn aside, and steal softly behind the bushes in his rear, by which means he effected his retreat in safety. He would not, in all probability, have proved so fortunate, had this tremendous monster possessed that acute sense of smelling with which most species of quadrupeds are endowed.

In speaking of the muscular strength of the lion, naturalists have observed, that a single stroke of his paw is sufficient to break the back of a horse, and one sweep of his tail will bring the strongest man to the ground. Kolben has remarked, that when the lion overtakes his prey, he always knocks it down, and seldom bites it till he has given the mortal blow, which is generally accompanied with a tremendous roar.

A lion was once seen at the Cape of Good Hope, to take a heifer in his mouth, and to carry her off with the same ease as a cat does a rat.

He likewise leaped over a broad ditch with her without the least apparent difficulty. The following account of a display of strength, superior even to the above example, was given to Dr. Sparrman by two respectable persons belonging to the colony, on whose veracity he could rely.

“ Being on a hunting party, near Bosjesman’s River, with several Hottentots, they perceived a lion dragging a buffalo from a plain to a wood upon a neighbouring hill. They, however, soon forced him to quit his prey, in order to make prize of it themselves; and found that this creature had had the sagacity to take out the large and cumbersome entrails of the Buffalo, the more easily to carry off the remainder of the carcase. The ferocious animal as soon as he saw, from the skirts of the wood, that the Hottentots had begun to carry off the flesh to the waggon, frequently peeped out upon them, and that probably with no small degree of mortification.

“ The strength of the lion, however, is said not to be sufficient alone to overcome an animal so large and so powerful as the buffalo; but in order to make it his prey, this fierce creature is obliged to have recourse both to agility and stratagem. Stealing unawares on the buffalo, he fastens with both his paws on the nostrils and mouth of the beast, and continues squeezing them close together, till at length the poor animal is strangled, exhausted, and expires. It was said, that one of the colonists had witnessed a circumstance of

Lying in ambush—Springing on the prey.

this kind; and others had reason to conclude, that the observation was correct, from seeing buffaloes, which had escaped from the clutches of lions; of whose claws they bore evident marks about the mouth and nose. They, however, asserted, that the lion himself risked his life in such attempts, especially if any other buffalo were at hand to rescue that which was attacked. It was also said, that a traveller once had an opportunity of seeing a female buffalo with her calf, defended by a river at her back, keep at bay, for a long time, five lions, which had partly surrounded, but did not, at least as long as the traveller looked on, venture to attack her."

When he is not pressed by hunger, the lion, lies in ambush in the manner of the cat and the tiger, and patiently waits for his prey. When it approaches, he springs or throws himself upon it, with one prodigious bound, from the place of his concealment; and if he chance to miss his leap, he will not, as the Hottentots informed Dr. Sparrman, pursue his prey any farther; but as though he were ashamed, he turns round towards the place where he lay in ambush, and slowly measures, step by step, as it were, the exact length between the two points, as if to ascertain how far short of his mark, or how much beyond it, he had taken his leap.

Dr. Sparrman is of opinion, that it is not in magnanimity, as many will have it, but in an insidious and cowardly disposition, blended with a

certain degree of pride, that the general character of the lion consists: but that hunger must naturally have the effect of inspiring so strong and so nimble an animal with uncommon intrepidity and courage. "From all the most credible accounts that I could collect concerning lions," continues this author, "as well as from what I saw myself, I think I may safely conclude, that this wild beast is frequently a great coward, or, at least, deficient in point of courage comparatively to his strength: on the other hand, however, he sometimes shows an unusual degree of intrepidity, of which I will just mention the following instance, as it was related to me.

"A lion had broken into a walled inclosure for cattle, through the latticed gate, and done considerable damage. The people belonging to the farm were well assured of his coming again by the same way: in consequence of this, they stretched a rope directly across the entrance, to which several loaded guns were fastened in such a manner that they must necessarily discharge their contents into the lion's body, as soon as ever he should push against the cord, as he was expected to do, with his breast. But the lion, which came before it was dark, having, probably, some suspicions respecting the cord, struck it away with his foot; and, without betraying the least fear, in consequence of the reports made by the loaded pieces, went on steadily and careless

Predilection for the flesh of Hottentots.

of every thing, and devoured the prey he had left untouched before."

It is a fact, established by the testimony of various writers, that the lion of the Cape prefers the flesh of a Hottentot to any other creature, and has frequently been known to single one out from a party of Dutch.

One of the Namaaqua Hottentots, who reside about eighty leagues north of the Cape, attempting to drive his master's cattle into a pond situated between two ridges of rock, discovered a lion couching in the middle of the pool. Terrified at this unexpected sight, he instantly took to his heels, and had sufficient presence of mind to run through the herd; under the idea, that if the lion should pursue, he would stop to attack the first beast that fell in his way: he was, however, mistaken. The lion darted through the herd, making directly after the Hottentot; who, perceiving that the animal had singled him out, scrambled breathless and half dead with terror, up one of the tree-aloes, in the trunk of which, a few steps had been cut, the more easily to come at some nests contained in the branches.

It should be observed, that these nests belonged to a species of small birds, of the genus *Loxia*, which live in a state of society, and construct in one clump, and under one cover, a whole republic of nests, perhaps ten feet in diameter, and containing a population of several hundreds of individuals.

Under the cover of one of these clumps of nests the Hottentot concealed himself from the sight of his inexorable foe. At the moment of his ascending, the lion made a spring at him; but missing his aim, he walked in sullen silence round the tree, casting at times, a terrific look towards the poor Hottentot, who had crept behind the nests. The latter having long remained silent and motionless, ventured to peep out of his hiding-place, hoping his enemy had taken his departure; but to his no small astonishment and affright, his eyes met those of the animal, which, as he afterwards declared, flashed fire at him.

The lion then lay down at the foot of the tree, where he remained without stirring for twenty-four hours; but being then parched with thirst, he went to a spring, at some distance, to drink. The Hottentot, seizing this opportunity, descended the tree with trepidation, and hastened with all possible expedition to his home, not more than a mile from the spot, where he arrived in safety. It afterwards appeared, that his enemy had returned to the tree, and finding that the man had escaped, had hunted him, by the scent, to within three hundred paces of the house.

In the more northern parts of the African continent, which are infested with this animal, the natives display extraordinary address and intrepidity in attacking him. Claude Jannequin, in his voyage to Senegal, describes one of these combats, on the banks of the Niger, between a

Mode of attacking the lion in Africa.

lion and a negro chief. This prince took Jannequin and his suite to a place contiguous to a large wood, much infested by wild beasts, and directed them to climb into the trees. Then mounting his horse, and taking with him three spears and a dagger, he entered the wood, where he soon found a lion, and wounded him in the buttock. The enraged animal sprang with great fury towards his assailant; who, by a feigned flight, drew him to the spot where the company, before whom he was to exhibit, were concealed. Then turning his horse, he instantly discharged a second spear at his antagonist, which pierced his body. He alighted, and the lion, now rendered furious, advanced with open jaws to devour him, but he received the animal on the point of his third spear, which he forced into his gullet; then, at one leap, springing across his body, he cut open his throat with the dagger. In this contest, the negro exhibited such agility and address, that he received no other wound than a slight scratch on the thigh.

Where the lion has become acquainted with the superiority of man, his courage has been sometimes so lost, that he has been scared away even by a shout. In a tame state, we have an instance of this formidable animal being overcome by a goat. A full grown, tame lion belonging to M. Bruce, governor of the settlements of the Senegal company on the African coast, happened to be near that gentleman when a flock

of goats he had purchased was driven home. The sight of the lion terrified them to such a degree, that all but one ran away. The latter looking stedfastly at the formidable animal, stamped in a menacing manner, on the ground with his foot; then retreating a few steps, instantly returned, and with his horns struck the lion such a violent blow on the forehead that he was completely stunned. The goat repeated the blow several times before his antagonist could recover himself, and the lion was thrown into such confusion, that he was obliged to skreen himself behind his master from the farther attacks of this extraordinary assailant.

Notwithstanding the ferocity of the lion in a state of nature, he is often bred up with domestic animals, and is seen to play innocently and familiarly among them: and such is the generosity of his disposition, that he has been seen to despise contemptible enemies, and to pardon their insults when it was in his power to punish them. Of this the following is a remarkable instance.

A dog was, some years ago, put for food into the cage of a lion kept in the tower. Instead of wreaking his fury on such a feeble enemy, the stately animal spared his life, and they lived together for a considerable time in the same den in perfect harmony, and appeared to entertain an affection for each other. The dog sometimes had the impudence to growl at his benefactor,

and even to dispute with him the food that was thrown into the den: but the lion, instead of chastising the impertinence of his companion, usually suffered him to eat quietly before he began his own repast.

This natural magnanimity, and contempt for inferior enemies, has induced many persons to relate wonderful, and in some instances, altogether incredible stories respecting this royal beast.

“A Jacobin monk, at Versailles,” says the Pere Labat, “being in slavery at Mequinez, resolved, with a companion, to attempt his escape. They got out of their prison, and travelled during the night only, to a considerable distance, resting in the woods by day, and hiding themselves amongst the bushes. At the end of the second night they came to a pond. This was the first water they had seen since their escape, and of course they approached it with great eagerness; but when they were at a little distance from the bank, they observed a lion. After some consultation, they agreed to go up to the animal, and submissively to implore his pity; accordingly they kneeled before the beast, and in a mournful tone related their misfortunes and miseries. The lion, as they told the story, seemed affected at the relation, and withdrew to some distance from the water; this gave the boldest of the men an opportunity of going down to the pond, and filling his vessels, whilst the other continued his lamentable oration.

Instances of attachment to man.

They afterwards both passed on their way before the lion, which made no attempt whatever either to injure or molest them."

The story, as thus related by two superstitious old monks, is too ridiculous to obtain any credit as to the motives which induced the animal to such a mode of conduct. It, however, may be considered to rest on a better foundation, when it is observed, that the lion might have had his appetite fully satisfied previously to their appearance, and at that moment have been too indolent to attempt to injure them. His retiring at the relation of their story, was, no doubt, to suit his own convenience, only thus interrupted as he was by the wanderers.

Many pleasing anecdotes are related of the attachment and gratitude of this animal to man. The ancient story of Androcles and the lion, recorded by Dio Cassius, cannot fail to be familiar to every reader. With the following, which are of more recent date, they may not, perhaps, be so well acquainted.

"In the reign of King James I, Mr. Henry Archer, a watch-maker, residing at Morocco, had two whelps given him, which were stolen, not long before from a lioness, near Mount Atlas. They were a male and female, and till the death of the latter were kept together in the emperor's garden. After that time, he had the male constantly in his apartment, till he attained the size of a mastiff. He was perfectly tame and gentle

Instances of attachment.

in his manners. Being about to return to England, Mr. Archer reluctantly gave the animal to a merchant of Marseilles, who presented him to the French king. By that monarch he was sent as a present to the English sovereign, and was kept for seven years afterwards in the tower. A man, who had been in the service of Mr. Archer, accidentally went with some friends to see the animals there. The lion instantly recognized him, and by his whining and gestures, exhibited the most unequivocal signs of joy at meeting with his former acquaintance. The man, equally rejoiced, desired the keeper to open his cage, and went into it. The lion fawned upon him like a dog, and licked his hands, feet, and face, leaping and tumbling about, to the astonishment of all the spectators. When he left the place, the animal roared aloud in an extacy of grief, and for four days refused to take any kind of nourishment."

A similar circumstance is related by Mr. Hope, in his *Thoughts in Prose and Verse*.

"One day," says that writer, "I had the honour of dining with her grace the Duchess of Hamilton. After dinner, the company attended her grace to see a lion that she had in the court, fed. While we were admiring his fierceness, and teasing him with sticks to make him abandon his prey and fly at us, the porter came, and informed the duchess, that a serjeant, with some recruits at the gate, begged permission to see the

Instances of attachment.

lion. Her grace, with great condescension and good nature, asked permission of the company for the travellers to come in, as they would then have the satisfaction of seeing the animal fed. They were accordingly admitted at the moment when the lion was growling over his prey. The serjeant, advancing to the cage, called out, "Nero! Nero! poor Nero! don't you know me?" The animal instantly turned his head to look at him; then rose up, left his prey, and came wagging his tail, to the side of his cage. The man then put his hand upon him, and patted him; telling us at the same time, that it was three years since they had seen each other, but that the care of the lion, on his passage from Gibraltar, had been committed to him, and he was happy to see the poor beast show so much gratitude for his attention. The lion, indeed, seemed perfectly pleased; he went to and fro, rubbing himself against the place where his benefactor stood, and licked the serjeant's hand as he held it out to him. The man wanted to go into the cage to him, but was withheld by the company, who were not altogether convinced of the safety of the act."

About the year 1799, Felix Cassel, brought two lions, a male and a female, to the national menagerie, at Paris; soon after which, he was taken ill, and being unable to attend the lions, another person was obliged to perform his duty. The male became sad and solitary, and remained

Instances of attachment.

motionless at the end of his cage, refusing to take any thing from the stranger, at whom he roared in a menacing manner. The company of the female seemed even to displease him, and his uneasiness induced a belief, that he was really ill. In the mean time, no one dared to approach him. Felix, at length recovered; and with a view to surprise the lion, he advanced unobserved to the cage, and showed nothing but his face between the bars. The lion instantly made a spring, leaped against the bars, patted him with his paws, licked his hands and face, and showed every sign of pleasure. The female likewise ran towards him, but the lion, as if apprehensive lest she should snatch any favours from Felix, drove her back, and a quarrel seemed about to ensue, when Felix entered the den to pacify them. He caressed each by turns, and was afterwards frequently seen between them. Such was the command he had over them, that whenever he wished them to separate, and to retire to their cages, a word was sufficient; on the least sign from him they would lie on their backs, hold up their paws one after another, and open their mouths, to show them to strangers, and as a recompence, they obtained the favour of licking his hand. These animals were of a strong breed, and were at that time, about five years and a half old.

The French of Fort St. Louis, had, at one time, a lioness, which they kept chained. But the poor animal was reduced to such extremity

Instance of gratitude—Tame lions.

by a disease in the jaw, that the people of the fort supposed her to be dying; and, having taken off her chain, they threw the body into a neighbouring field. Here she was found by M. Compagnon, author of "Travels in Bambuck," who happened to be returning from the chace. Her eyes were closed, her mouth open, and swarming with ants. Compagnon was touched with pity at the poor animal's sufferings, and having washed her mouth with water, poured a small quantity of milk down her throat. This simple application produced a visible effect, and the lioness, being carried back to the fort gradually recovered. The kindness of her benefactor occasioned such an attachment towards him, that she would take nothing but from his hand; and when perfectly cured, she frequently followed him about the island, with a cord round her neck, like the most familiar dog.

We are informed by Mr. Brown, that, during his residence in Dar Fur, in Africa, he purchased two lions, one of which was only four months old. This animal, he rendered by degrees, so tame, that he acquired most of the habits of a dog. He went twice a week to feed on the offal of the butchers, and then commonly slept for several hours successively. When food was given them they manifested a ferocity towards each other, and towards any person who approached them; but, excepting on these occasions, Mr. Brown never saw them disagree, or show any

signs of malignity towards the human species. Nay, such was the gentleness of their disposition, that even lambs might pass them unmolested. The sultan of Dar Fur had likewise two tame lions, which always went to the market with their keeper, to feed.

It is truly astonishing to observe, with what patience and good humour this noble animal suffers his keeper to play with him, to pull out his tongue, and even wantonly to chastise him. Some instances have, indeed, occurred, of his revenging these unprovoked sallies, but they are very rare. Labat speaks of a gentleman who kept a lion in his chamber. The servant whom he employed to attend him, frequently mingled blows with his caresses. This injudicious treatment he continued for some time; but one morning, the gentleman was awakened by an unusual noise in his room, and, on drawing the curtains of his bed, he beheld with horror the lion growling over the man's head, which he had separated from his body, and was tossing round the floor. He hastily withdrew into the adjoining apartment, called for assistance, and had the animal secured from doing farther mischief.

Instances are, indeed, recorded of the lion's being satisfied with chastising his pursuers, without killing them. Thus, a Hottentot of the Cape received a bite in the face from a lion, who then stalked away; and a planter was for some time in the power of a lion, which spared his life, after-

Mode of taming lions in the East.

giving him several severe bruises. It seems doubtful, however, whether this apparently merciful disposition is the effect of generosity, or whether it arises merely from caprice and want of appetite.

We are informed by Tavernier, that the inhabitants of some parts of the East have a method of taming lions, that is not practised in any other part of the world. Four or five of those animals are assembled, and tied by their hind legs to stakes, twelve yards asunder. A strong cord is likewise put round each of their necks; and these cords are held by men, who stand behind the stakes. In front of the animals, but just out of their reach, when they are at the extent of the rope that ties their legs, another cord is stretched; and against it stand several people, who continually tease them by pelting them with stones and wood. Irritated at this treatment, the lions furiously spring forward, when the men who hold the ropes that are fastened round their necks, pull them back. By this practice, of which Tavernier himself was an eye-witness, they are by degrees accustomed to become familiar.

In the dominions of the great mogul, it was formerly esteemed a royal privilege to hunt the lion, which none durst exercise without the special permission of the emperor. When Sir Thomas Roe was ambassador at that court from James I, a lion and a wolf broke into the courtyard of his house, and it was not till he had sent

Flesh of the lion eaten by Arabs.

to the palace, and obtained the licence of the sovereign, that he dared to attack those formidable intruders.

At the Cape of Good Hope, the natives betray the lion into pit-falls, dug for that purpose; and have sometimes the hardihood to attack him with clubs and spears. His skin being extremely firm and compact, and the hair very thick on the fore-parts in particular, it is not easily penetrated; but is not proof against a javelin or a musket-ball. Kolben says, that at the Cape, the flesh of the lion is frequently eaten; that its flavour is excellent, and not unlike the taste of venison. Mr. Bruce informs us, that in the deserts of Barbary, there is a tribe of Arabs which almost entirely subsist on the flesh of these animals, and claim peculiar privileges on account of the pains they take to destroy them. But that traveller, who himself partook of this extraordinary fare, describes it as being in general tough, and having a strong smell of musk, which gave it a disagreeable flavour.

The lion arrives at maturity at the age of five years, and has been known to live upwards of seventy. In his natural state, it is probable, that he attains a much greater age.

A lion and lioness, brought over from Africa, about fourteen years ago, were placed in the same den, at Exeter 'Change, being at that time only eighteen months old. Their keeper, (a negro, who had reared them from whelps, and

Lions at Exeter 'Change.

attended them to England) had them in such complete subjection, that he frequently used to sit and smoke his pipe in their den, with a table and glasses before him, whilst the animals fawned upon, and played round him like two kittens; and if their frolics became too boisterous, he could instantly command silence by stamping his foot, and appearing displeased. It was not on all occasions, however, that even this man would enter the den; as he invariably refused, when the animals had been wantonly irritated by the spectators; nor was he ever known to venture himself with them whilst they were feeding. It may be proper to add, that when the negro quitted the menagerie, the lioness was so sensibly affected by her loss, that she pined away, and soon died.

There are at present, at Exeter 'Change, a lion and lioness; the former about three years, and the latter three years and a half old. The lion, brought over by General Dundas, in the Favourite Packet, is a remarkably fine animal, and was formerly entirely under the command of his keeper, who frequently entered his den, in order to comb him, make up his bed, &c.: but, since last September (1805) he has not permitted such freedoms, nor ever suffered his attendant to enter his cage. The keeper informs me, that this animal usually consumes six pounds of raw flesh, for his daily subsistence; but half that quantity suffices the female.

Lions have sometimes been known to permit

Attachment of a lioness to a dog.

dogs to share their habitation in a state of confinement. I have myself seen a dog in the Tower, with a lioness, which was so extremely fond of him, that, whenever he attempted to pass through the bars of the den, she drew him back by his hinder parts, and placed her paw gently upon his body, as if intreating him not to leave her. This lioness, according to the best of my recollection, was brought over to England when very young; she was so remarkably tame that, during her voyage, the sailors on board the vessel with her, frequently reposed on her body as on a pillow; and when brought to London, she was led to the tower in a string, by a person to whom she was affectionately attached. On his quitting her, the poor animal became perfectly melancholy, and refused taking any nourishment, till on the keeper's going one day into her den, with a puppy in his arms, the lioness became suddenly attached to it, and they afterwards lived together in the greatest harmony.

It does not appear, however, that lions have ever become attached, or ever reconciled to any other animal than the dog. A lion, called Hector, now, or lately in the Tower, had been very ill for several days, when, to try the experiment, a live rabbit was put into his den. The little creature remained unmolested during one whole night, and the next day; so that the keeper began to hope it would be permitted to share the den in safety. On the morning following the

Lions in the Tower of London.

second night, however, it was found dead, and, on being skinned, the body exhibited evident marks of the lion's teeth, though there was not the least external mark of violence. In another instance, a cat had accidentally crept among the lion's straw on which he reposed; but the instant he discovered her, she fell a victim to his resentment, though, as in the former case, he did not attempt to devour the body.

The lions in the Tower generally begin to roar just before the night closes in. Miss Fanny Howe, a fine lioness, whelped in the Tower, on the 1st of June, 1794, and so named on account of Lord Howe's victory gained on that memorable day, regularly roars about six o'clock in the evening through both winter and summer. This practice is supposed to have originated in winter, from the noise of the drums, which, during that part of the year, always beat at six o'clock: but it is somewhat remarkable, that she should have continued this at the same hour through the whole year, since, for several months, the drums are not beat till eight o'clock. These animals invariably roar on the approach of rainy weather; and much more on Sunday than any other day, from the circumstance of their being then almost entirely by themselves.

THE TIGER.

THIS animal may be justly ranked among the most beautiful of quadrupeds, his colour being a fine orange yellow, white on the throat and belly, and elegantly marked throughout with long transverse bands or stripes. He also holds the second place in the class of carnivorous animals; but it has been justly observed that, while he possesses all the bad qualities of the lion, he seems entirely destitute of his good ones. To pride, strength, and intrepidity, the lion joins magnanimity, and some times clemency; while the tiger is fierce without provocation, and cruel without necessity. Alike regardless of man and all his hostile weapons, he is the scourge of every country which he inhabits: wild as well as tame animals are indiscriminately sacrificed to his insatiate voracity; he even attacks the young elephant and rhinoceros, and has sometimes engaged the lion himself with such fury and perseverance, that both animals have perished in the dreadful contest.

The tiger commits dreadful ravages among the flocks and herds in the countries where he resides; and when undisturbed, he tears open the body of his victim, thrusts his head into the wound, and drinks large draughts of the blood, before he begins to prey on the carcase.

The tiger's method of taking his prey is by



TYGER.

Engraved by James Cundick, London.

Springing on the prey.

concealing himself from view, and springing suddenly on his victim, with a roar which is hideous in the extreme; and it is said, that, like the lion, if he miss his object, he makes off without repeating the attempt. He seems to prefer mankind to any other prey, when he can procure them by surprise; but he seldom ventures to make an open attack on any animal capable of resistance.

A few years ago, a company seated under the umbrageous branches of some trees near the banks of a river in Bengal, were alarmed by the unexpected appearance of a tiger, preparing for its fatal spring: but, a lady having with almost unexampled presence of mind, unfurled a large umbrella in the animal's face, it instantly retired, as if confounded by so extraordinary and sudden an appearance, and thus afforded them an opportunity of escape.

To another party, however, fortune did not prove so propitious; but, in the height of their entertainment, one of their companions was suddenly seized and carried off by a tiger. The fatal accident which occurred a few years ago in the East Indies, must also be still fresh in the memory of all who have read the description given by an eye-witness of that tragic scene. A party went on shore on Sangar Island, to shoot deer; of which they saw innumerable tracks, as well as of tigers: they continued their diversion till near three o'clock; when, sitting down by

Dreadful accident on Sangar island.

the side of a jungle to refresh themselves, a roar like thunder was heard, and an immense tiger seized on Mr. Monro, son of Sir Hector Monro, bart. and immediately rushed into the jungle, dragging him through the thickest bushes and trees, every thing giving way to its monstrous strength; a tigress accompanied his progress. The united agonies of horror, regret, and fear, rushed at once upon the friends of the unhappy victim. One of them fired on the tiger; he seemed agitated. A second gentleman fired also; and in a few moments after this, the unfortunate gentleman came up to them, bathed in blood. Every medical assistance proved vain; and he expired in the space of twenty-four hours, having received such deep wounds from the teeth and claws of the animal, as rendered his recovery impossible. It is remarkable, that a large fire, consisting of ten or twelve whole trees, was blazing near the party, at the same time this accident took place, and ten or more of the natives were with them. "The human mind," says an eyewitness, "can scarcely form any idea of this scene of horror. We had but just pushed our boat from this accursed shore, when the tigress made her appearance, almost raging mad, and remained on the sand all the time they continued in sight."

The muscular strength of this animal is extremely great, as will appear from the following anecdote. A peasant in the East Indies had a

Muscular strength—Combat with an elephant.

a buffalo fallen into a quagmire; and while he went to call for assistance, a tiger came to the spot, and immediately drew out the animal; though the previous efforts of several men united had been of no effect. When the people returned, the first object they beheld was the tiger with the buffalo thrown over his shoulder, and carrying it away with the feet upwards, towards his den. On perceiving the men, however, he let fall his prey, and instantly retreated to the woods; but he had previously killed the buffalo, and sucked its blood. It may be here proper to observe, that some of the Indian buffaloes are twice as heavy as the ordinary run of our black cattle: whence we may form some idea of the prodigious strength of this rapacious animal, which could carry off so enormous a weight with apparent facility.

Very obstinate combats have sometimes taken place between the tiger and the elephant, and one of these was seen by M. D'Obsonville, in the camp of Hyder Ali. The tiger, not yet of full strength (for he was not more than four feet high) was brought into the area, and fastened with a chain to a stake, round which he could turn freely. On one side, a strong and well-taught elephant was introduced by his keeper. The amphitheatre was enclosed by a triple rank of lance-men. The action, when it commenced, was extremely furious; but the elephant, after receiving two deep wounds, proved vic-

Rencounter between the tiger and crocodile.

torious. From an encounter like this, however, where the animal seemed a feeble one of its species, and was at the same time restrained by chains, we cannot form an accurate conception of its prowess in a state of liberty. M. D'Obsonville observes, that although four or five elephants would have nothing to fear from a greater number of tigers, yet, he was of opinion, from his remarks on this combat, that a tiger, in full possession of his faculties, would prove superior to the elephant in single combat.

It is said, that a rencounter sometimes takes place between the tiger and the crocodile; in which case both generally perish. When the tiger descends to the water to drink, the crocodile raises its head above the surface, in order to seize him, as it does other animals that come thither. When this is the case, the tiger strikes his claws into the eyes of the crocodile, the only vulnerable part within reach; and the latter, immediately plunging into its native element, drags in the tiger also, by which means they are both drowned.

Animals of this species, if taken young, may be, in some measure, domesticated, and rendered mild and submissive to their keepers.

A beautiful tiger, now exhibited in the Tower of London, was brought over from Bengal in the year 1791, in the Pitt East Indiaman, belonging to Mr. Alderman Macauley, and was given to Mr. Nepean, on condition that it should be pre-

Remarkably tame tiger in the Tower of London.

sented to his majesty, which was accordingly done. During his voyage to England, he exhibited the most gentle disposition, and seemed to be as harmless and playful as a kitten. It sometimes permitted two or three of the sailors to repose their heads on its body as on a pillow. It also frequently climbed about the vessel in the most diverting manner; and on being one day severely beaten by the carpenter, for stealing a piece of beef, it submitted to the chastisement with all the patience of a dog. It is also worthy of remark, that although this animal has now been kept in the tower near fifteen years, he still continues remarkably tame; has in no instance been guilty of any ill-natured or mischievous tricks. He seems extremely fond of his keeper and implicitly obeys all his commands.

In the year 1801, one day after this tiger had been fed, his keeper put a rough, black, terrier puppy, into the den. The beast suffered it to remain uninjured, and soon afterwards became so much attached to it, as to appear restless whenever the animal was taken away to be fed; and to welcome its return by gently licking over every part of its body. In one or two instances, the terrier was left in the den during the time the tiger had his food; and sometimes ventured to eat along with him, but seldom without his appearing dissatisfied with the liberty. This terrier, after a residence with the tiger of several months, was removed to make way for a little

Dog permitted to share a tiger's den.

pug bitch, which was previously shut up for three or four days among the straw of the tiger's bed, to take off, if possible, any smell that might have proved offensive. The exchange was made soon after the animals had been fed: the tiger seemed perfectly contented with his new companion, and immediately began to lick it as he had before done the terrier. It seemed at first in considerable alarm with so formidable an inmate, but in the course of the day, became reconciled to its situation. This diminutive creature would frequently play with the tiger, bark at him, and even bite him by the foot and mouth without exciting the least resentment or displeasure. During the time the bitch was in the habit of daily visiting the tiger, she happened to be with young, and, at the time of parturition, was necessarily absent two or three whole days; during which time the tiger seemed agitated and uneasy, as he was afterwards whenever she happened to be detained a greater while than usual in feeding her young ones.

It has been asserted, that this little animal died, in consequence of having been trodden upon by some person who came to see the royal menagerie. This, however, is a mistake: the little creature being still alive (December 1805) and in perfect health; as I can testify from my own observation. It appears that she was removed from the tiger's den by the present keeper Mr. B. Greenfield; who informs me, that any

dog may be safely put into the den after the tiger has been fed; as he has ascertained by repeated experiments.

The ship carpenter, who came over with the tiger, after an absence of more than two years came to the Tower to see him. The animal instantly recognised his former acquaintance, rubbed himself backward and forward against the grating of his den, and appeared highly delighted. Notwithstanding the urgent request of the keeper that he would not rashly expose himself to danger, the man begged so earnestly to be let into the den, that he was at last suffered to enter. The emotions of the animal seemed roused in the most grateful manner. He rubbed against him, licked his hands, fawned upon him like a cat, and in no respect attempted to injure him. The man remained here for two or three hours; and he at last began to imagine there would be some difficulty in getting out alone. Such was the affection of the animal towards his former friend, and so close did he keep to his person, as to render his escape almost impracticable. With some care, however, he got the tiger beyond the partition of the two dens, and the keeper watching his opportunity, dexterously closed the slide, and thus separated them.

An experiment was tried some time ago at Edinburgh, by putting a bitch big with young into the den of a tigress. It was naturally expected, that the defenceless creature would have

Instance of puppies living with a tigress.

been instantly devoured, by an animal so ferocious as the tigress. The latter, however, appeared wholly regardless of her new companion, and not only suffered her to remain uninjured, but even to feed with her, and occasionally to repose on her ample back. In a short time the bitch produced five puppies, which lay securely in a corner of the den; while the tigress evinced, by stepping carefully over them, and by other signs, that she held them unworthy of notice, or at least, that she had no desire to molest them. This curious circumstance was witnessed by many spectators, and the above particulars were communicated to me by the person who made the experiment: but after some time, three of the puppies unfortunately strayed from the den, and were devoured by a lioness, and the two others are supposed to have been carried off by some of the visitors who crowded to see them. The bitch, however, is said to be still living, and in perfect amity with her formidable companion.

A fine young animal called the ring-tailed tiger, and which answers to the name of Tippoo, is now exhibited in the Tower of London. During its voyage to England it ran about the decks of the vessel, and evinced the most perfect tameness. It was presented to her majesty by Admiral Rennier, and a boy (servant to the admiral) carried it to the Tower in a dog-kennel. Having taken it to the den in his arms, the youth seemed very unwilling to quit his favourite, but

Hunting the tiger.

remained a considerable time, kissing the animal, and bidding it farewell in the most tender manner. The tiger also exhibited every possible mark of attachment; and some time elapsed before the keeper could reconcile it to its new situation.

This animal is fed with boiled meat, by desire of the admiral who presented it. But tigers are generally fed with raw flesh; of which they consume five or six pounds weight in a day; and they lap about three pints of water.

The hunting of these animals is a favourite amusement with some of the Oriental princes; who go in search of them, attended by considerable bodies of men well mounted and armed with lances. As soon as a tiger is roused, he is instantly attacked on all sides, with pikes, arrows, and sabres, and presently destroyed. This diversion, however, is always attended with danger; for if the animal feels himself wounded, he seldom retreats without sacrificing some one of the party to his vengeance. There are men who, covered with a coat of mail, or armed only with a shield, a poniard, and a short scymitar, will venture to attack these sanguinary beasts singly, and fight with them life for life; for in combats of this nature, there is no other alternative, than to overcome or perish.

The tigress produces four or five young at a litter. She is at all times furious; but when robbed of her young her rage rises to the utmost

Defence of the young—Roaring of the tiger.

extremity. She then braves every danger, and pursues her plunderers, who are often under the necessity of releasing one of their captives in order to retard her motion. She stops, takes it up, and carries it to the nearest covert; but instantly returns, and renews her pursuit, even to the gates of buildings, or the sea shore: and when the hope of recovering her offspring proves fruitless, her agony is expressed by the most hideous and terrific howlings.

The roar of these animals is said to be exceedingly dreadful. It begins by deep, melancholy, and slow intonations and inflections; presently it becomes more acute; and then suddenly changes to a violent cry, interrupted by long tremulous sounds, which, together, make a distracting impression upon the mind. This is chiefly heard in the night; when silence and darkness add to the horror, and the roarings are repeated by the echoes of the rocks and mountains.

The Indian physicians attributed medicinal virtues to different parts of the tiger's body; and the skin is held in high esteem in all the Oriental countries, where it is applied to a variety of useful and ornamental purposes.

THE LEOPARD.

THIS animal is about four feet in length, exclusive of the tail, which generally measures

General description—Devastations.

two feet and a half. Its skin is extremely beautiful, being of a fine bright yellow, elegantly marked with annular black spots. It is chiefly found in Senegal, Guinea, and the interior parts of Africa; delighting in the most impervious forests, and frequenting the borders of rivers to wait for such animals as resort thither to allay their thirst. It also resides in some parts of China, and among the mountains of Caucasus, from Persia to India.

The general appearance of these animals is marked with extreme ferocity. The eye is restless, the aspect cruel, and all the motions are short and precipitate. They attack and devour indiscriminately every thing they meet, sparing neither man nor beast; and when they cannot obtain a sufficient supply in their native wilds, they descend in great numbers from their lurking-places, and commit dreadful devastations among the numerous herds which are to be found in the plains.

Kolben relates that in the year 1708, two leopards, a male and female, with three young ones, entered a sheep-fold at the Cape of Good Hope. The old ones killed nearly a hundred sheep, and regaled themselves with the blood. When they were satiated, they tore a carcass into three pieces, and divided it between their young ones. They then took each a whole sheep; and thus laden began to move off. Having been observed, however, they were way-laid on their return, and

A tame leopard—Leopards in the Tower.

the female and three young ones were killed; but the male effected his escape. The same writer also informs us, that their flesh is white, nourishing, and delicious; much better than the finest veal.

The negroes frequently take these animals in pitfalls, slightly covered with hurdles; and regale on their flesh. The negresses make collars of their teeth, which they suppose to possess some particular virtues; and the skins are sent to Europe, where they are held in such estimation, that some of the most beautiful sell for upwards of ten pounds each.

The late Sir Ashton Lever kept a leopard in a cage at Leicester-house, where it became so tame, as always to seem highly gratified by caresses and attention, purring and rubbing its sides against the cage like a cat. It was afterwards presented to the royal menagerie in the Tower; where a person, before acquainted with it, saw it after an interval of more than twelve months, notwithstanding which, it appeared instantly to recognize him, and began to renew its caresses.

There are at present (1806) a beautiful leopard and leopardess in the Tower of London, the former presented to his majesty by Mr. Devaynes, banker; the latter by Sir Charles Mallet. Here also is a beautiful *black* leopardess, from the coast of Malabar, given by J. Hutchinson, esq. This animal is a great curiosity; for although

Hunting leopard—Mode of attack.

her skin is black, the spots are so much deeper as to be perfectly obvious.

There is a variety of this species called the hunting leopard, which is about the height of a large greyhound; of a light tawny brown colour, marked like the former with circular black spots.

This animal, which seems to be chiefly found in India, is frequently tamed, and used in the chase of antelopes. For this purpose it is carried in a kind of small waggon, chained and hooded, lest, on approaching the herd, it should be too precipitate, or not select a proper animal. When unchained, it does not immediately spring towards its prey; but winds, in the most cautious manner, along the ground, stopping occasionally, and carefully concealing itself till a favourable opportunity offers: it then darts on the herd with astonishing celerity, and soon overtakes them by the rapidity of its bounds. If, its first attempt, however, which consists of five or six surprising leaps, does not prove successful, it loses its breath; and, finding itself unequal in speed, stands still for some time to recover; then relinquishing the attempt for that time, quietly returns to its keeper.

THE PANTHER

IS larger than the leopard, being frequently from five to six feet long, whereas the latter, as already observed, seldom exceeds four feet. The

Form and appearance—Taking the prey.

general colour is yellow, of a deep tint on the back, but growing paler towards the belly, which, together with the chest, is white: on the back, sides, and flanks, it is elegantly marked with black spots, disposed in circles of four or five each, with a single spot in the centre. The ears of this animal are short and pointed; the eyes fierce and restless; and the countenance extremely ferocious: it is supposed, indeed, to be absolutely untameable, and in a state of confinement, growls almost incessantly. It is chiefly found in Africa, where the species extends from Barbary to the remotest parts of Guinea. A panther presented to his majesty by the Dey of Algiers is now exhibited in the Tower.

The panther happily prefers the flesh of brute animals to that of man; but when pressed with hunger, it attacks every living creature without distinction. It takes its prey by surprise, either lurking in thickets, or creeping on its belly until it come within its reach: it will even climb trees in pursuit of monkeys, and other small animals, so that nothing is secure from its insidious attacks.

The ancients seem to have been well acquainted with these animals; and the Romans exhibited great numbers of them in their public shows. Panthers were at that time extremely numerous in the northern parts of Africa, and they still abound in the tropical regions of that continent.

THE LYNX

IS distinguished from every other animal of the cat kind, by its long and erect ears, which are ornamented at the end with a tuft of long black hair. The length of its body is upwards of four feet, and that of the tail about six inches. Its hair is long and soft, and marked with dusky spots, which vary in colour according to its age. Its legs and feet are thick and strong, and its eyes of a pale yellow: and its fur is equally valuable for its warmth and softness. Great quantities of it are imported from the northern parts of Europe and America; and the farther north the animals are taken, the more beautiful is their fur. It may also be observed, the furs of those taken in winter are thicker, more glossy and beautiful than those which are obtained in the summer season.

In searching after prey, the lynx frequently climbs the highest trees; and neither weazels, ermines, nor squirrels, are often able to escape its attack. It watches for the fallow deer, the hare, and other animals; and when opportunity offers, it darts from the branches where it lay concealed, and seizes them by the throat; but after sucking the blood and brains of the hapless victims, it leaves them and goes in search of fresh game. It is consequently very destructive, as it is not easily satisfied with carnage, and sometimes commits great devastation among the flocks.

When attacked by a dog it lies down on its back, and defends itself desperately with its claws, and in this posture frequently repels the assailant.

The lynx resides in all the northern parts both of the old and the new continent. It is seldom found in very warm, or even temperate countries, but prefers the cold regions of the north. The largest and most beautiful of these creatures are found near the lake Balkash, in Tartary, where a small skin is commonly sold for a pound sterling.

A variety of fables were invented by the ancients respecting this animal, particularly that its sight could penetrate through stone walls, &c.; but these are too absurd and romantic to require a serious refutation.

THE OCELOT

IN shape resembles the domestic cat; but it is considerably larger, being sometimes two feet and a half high, and four feet in length.

This animal, particularly the male, is extremely beautiful, its fur being elegantly variegated. The general colour is a bright tawny; the forehead and legs are spotted with black, and a stripe of the same colour extends along the top of the back. The shoulders, sides, and rump are prettily marbled with long stripes of black, forming oval figures, filled in the middle with small black

Native abode—Favourite prey.

spots, and the tail is marked in the same manner. The colours of the female are less vivid, and also less beautifully arranged than those of the male.

The ocelot lives chiefly in the mountains, and conceals itself in the leafy tops of trees, whence it darts upon such animals as come within its reach. It sometimes stretches itself along the branches, as if it were dead, till the monkeys, propelled by their natural curiosity, come within reach, and experience the fatal effects of their temerity. It is a native of South America.

When it has taken its prey, this animal is said to prefer the blood before the flesh. A male and a female ocelot, which had been taken very young, were some years ago brought to Paris. At the age of three months they became so strong and fierce, as to kill a bitch that had been put to them as a nurse. And on a live cat being thrown to them, they immediately killed it, and sucked the blood, but did not devour the flesh. The male never allowed the female to partake of his food until he had satisfied his own appetite.

One of these animals, exhibited at Newcastle, although extremely old, showed evident marks of untameable ferocity, and would not admit of any familiarities from the keeper, but growled continually, and always appeared extremely restless.

THE HYÆNA.

THE hyæna is about the size of a large dog, of a pale greyish brown, and marked across with several blackish bands. The head is broad and flat, and the eyes have an expression of great ferocity. The hair of the neck is erect, and continued in a bristly mane along the back. The tail is short, and very bushy.

The general aspect betrays a gloominess and malignity of disposition, and the manners of the animal perfectly accord with its appearance. The neck is so extremely stiff, that in looking behind, the creature is obliged to move his whole body, somewhat in the manner of a hog.

Hyænas generally inhabit caverns and rocky places; whence they issue in troops at night to feed on the remains of dead animals, or on whatever living prey they can seize. They frequently commit great devastation among the flocks and herds, and not unfrequently violate the repositories of the dead, feeding greedily on the putrescent bodies; yet, when other provisions fail, they will eat the roots of plants, and the tender shoots of the palms.

Their courage is said to equal their rapacity; as an individual of the species will occasionally defend himself with great obstinacy against much larger animals; and Kaempfer relates, that he has often known one of them to attack the ounce and the panther.

Mr. Bruce's account of the Abyssinian hyænas.

“ These creatures,” says Mr. Bruce, “ were a general scourge to Abyssinia, in every situation, both in the city and in the field; and, I think, surpassed the sheep in number. Gondar was full of them, from evening till dawn of day; seeking the different pieces of slaughtered carcasses which this cruel and unclean people expose in the streets without burial; firmly believing that these animals are the Falasha or evil genii, transformed by magic, and come down from the neighbouring mountains to eat human flesh in the dark with safety. Many a time in the night, when the king had kept me late in the palace, and it was not my duty to lie there, in going across the square from the king's house, not many hundred yards distant, I have been apprehensive lest they should bite me in the leg. They grunted in great numbers about me, although I was surrounded with several armed men, who seldom passed a night without wounding or slaughtering some of them. One night in Maitsha, being very intent on an observation, I heard something pass behind me towards the bed; but, upon looking round, could perceive nothing. Having finished what I was about, I went out of my tent, resolving directly to return; which I immediately did, when I perceived two large blue eyes glaring at me in the dark. I called up my servant with a light; and we found a hyæna standing near the head of the bed, with two or three large bunches of candles in his

Mr. Bruce's adventure with a hyæna.

mouth. To have fired at him, would have been at the risk of breaking my quadrant or other furniture; and he seemed, by keeping the candles steadily in his mouth, to wish for no other prey at that time. As his mouth was full, and he had no claws to tear with, I was not afraid of him; and, with a pike, stuck him as near the heart as I could. It was not till then that he shewed any sign of fierceness; but upon feeling his wound, he dropped the candles, and endeavoured to run up the shaft of the spear to arrive at me, so that I was obliged to draw my pistol from my girdle and shoot him; and nearly at the same time, my servant cleft his skull with a battle-axe. In a word, the hyæna was the plague of our lives, the terror of our night-walks, and the destruction of our mules and asses, which, above every thing else, are his favourite food."

At Dar-Fur, a kingdom in the interior of Africa, these animals come in herds of six, eight, and sometimes more, into the villages at night, and carry off whatever they are able to master. They kill dogs and asses, even within the inclosure of the houses; and always assemble wherever a dead animal is thrown, which, by their united efforts, they drag to a prodigious distance; nor are they greatly intimidated at the approach of men, or the report of fire-arms.

These animals are now to be seen in most of the exhibitions of wild beasts in England. The keepers represent the old ones as extremely stub-



J. H. N. A.

Printed by J. H. N. A.

Instances of tameness.

born and malignant; but instances have occurred of the younger animals being tamed. Mr. Pennant asserts, that he once saw a hyæna as tame as a dog; and the Comte de Buffon mentions one which was exhibited at Paris, and was apparently divested of its natural ferocity. The keeper of Exeter 'Change informed me, that a hyæna now in his possession, was so very tame when about six months old, that he was occasionally suffered to come out of his den, and run about the exhibition room. He seemed fond of playing with any of the dogs that happened to come into the room; and would even allow strangers to approach and pat him with their hands, exhibiting no symptoms of displeasure. Still, however, there was a considerable degree of sullenness and ill-nature in his disposition, which, appeared to increase with his age, and it is now necessary to keep him closely confined. This animal was brought over in the *Manship East-Indiaman*; and is now about seven years old.

Mr. John Hunter had at Earle's Court, one of these animals, near eighteen months old, that was so tame as to admit strangers to approach and touch him. On Mr. Hunter's death he was sold to a travelling exhibitor of animals. For a few months previously to his being carried into the country, he was lodged in the Tower; where he continued tolerably gentle; but on being confined in the caravan he soon exhibited symptoms of ferocity equal to those of the most savage hy

Quantity of food—Singular affection.

ænas. He was at last killed by a tiger, the partition of whose den he had torn down by the enormous strength of his jaws.

In a state of confinement the hyæna is allowed three or four pounds weight of raw flesh in the day; and generally laps about three pints of water.

A remarkable peculiarity in the hyæna is, that when first dislodged from cover, or obliged to run, he always appears lame for a considerable distance; and sometimes to such a degree, as to induce the spectators to suppose that one of his hind-legs is broken; but after running some time, this affection goes off, and he escapes with great celerity.

THE SPOTTED HYÆNA.

THE spotted or laughing hyæna bears a near resemblance to the former species; but is larger, and marked with numerous black spots. The ground colour of the body is reddish brown; the face and upper part of the head are black; and the neck is furnished with an upright black mane. It has received the appellation of Laughing hyæna, from the singular laughing noise which it makes when food is shown to it, or whenever it is interrupted whilst eating.

These animals are found in many parts of Africa; but are peculiarly numerous at the Cape

of good Hope, where they are extremely mischievous and formidable; frequently entering the huts of the Hottentots in search of prey, and sometimes even carrying off the children. Barbot relates, that one of them coming into a negro's house, on the coast of Guinea, seized a girl, in spite of her resistance, threw her on his back, holding fast by one of the legs; and was making off with her: her screams, however, fortunately brought some men to her relief; upon which the beast dropped her, and made his escape; but she was considerably lacerated in different parts of her body by his teeth.

Numbers of hyænas attend almost every dark night about the shambles at the Cape, to carry away the filth and offal left by the inhabitants, who suffer these animals to come and return unmolested. The dogs too, with which at other times they are in perpetual enmity, do not then molest them; for on these occasions, it has been remarked, they are seldom known to do any material mischief.

During their nocturnal rambles in search of prey, they utter the most horrid yells; and their propensity to these cries is so implanted in them by nature, that one which was brought up tame at the Cape, was often heard in the night to emit this hideous noise. Some of the inhabitants of the Cape assert, that the hyæna has the power of imitating the cries of other animals, by which

Decoying the victim—Muscular strength.

artifice, it often succeeds in decoying lambs, calves, &c. from the folds. It is also said, that a party of hyænas will sometimes decoy the whole of the dogs from a farm, while their companions have an opportunity of issuing from their retreats, and carrying off sufficient booty before the dogs can return to prevent them.

The inhabitants of Guinea kill these ferocious animals by fixing guns on the outside of the villages, with a piece of carrion fastened to the trigger and placed near the muzzle, in such a manner, that the moment this bait is touched, the trigger is pulled, and the piece discharged.

The muscular strength of the jaws and neck of the spotted hyæna is extremely great, as will appear from the following anecdote: The den of the animal now in the Tower requiring some repairs, the carpenter completed them, by nailing on the floor a thick oak plank, of seven or eight feet in length, with at least a dozen nails, each longer than the middle finger of the hand. At one end of this plank, however, there was a small piece left that stood up higher than the rest, and the man not having a proper chisel along with him to cut it off, he returned to his shop for one. During his absence some persons came in to see the animals, and the hyæna was let down by the keeper from the other part of his den. He had scarcely entered the place before he discovered the piece that was left at the end of the plank,

Cowardice—Instance of ferocity.

and seizing it with his teeth, tore the plank completely up, drawing every nail with the utmost facility.

It is worthy of remark, that the hyæna will not openly attack a man; in proof of which, Mr. Greenfield informs me, that the animal now under his care, has been turned loose into the yard, without any such attempt.

The spotted hyæna is much more gentle than most of the individuals of the other species: as the keeper can enter his den at all times except when he is hungry or feeding. In suffering these liberties, however, the animal seems actuated by terror, rather than by his natural inclination; for in all these acts the man finds it necessary to have a stick in his hand. He does not pay the same respect to animals that come in his way. A soldier, who some years ago visited the royal menagerie, brought along with him a small terrier dog, and ridiculously held him up to the den of the hyæna. On seeing the animal, the dog was irritated, and in his rage thrust his head between the bars; when the furious beast sprung upon him, dragged him through, and almost instantly devoured him.

An animal of this species is now exhibited at the menagerie, Exeter 'Change, where it has been about six years.

CHAP. II.

“ By wintry famine rous’d, from all the tract
Of horrid mountains which the shining Alps
And wavy Appenines and Pyrenees
Branch out stupendous into distant lands,
Cruel as death ! and hungry as the grave !
Burning for blood ! bony, and gaunt, and grim !
Assembling wolves, in raging troops, descend ;
And, pouring o’er the country, bear along,
Keen as the north wind sweeps the glossy snow :
All is their prize.”

THOMSON.

THE WOLF.

THIS animal is considerably larger and more muscular than the dog ; his body frequently measuring three feet and a half in length, while that of the largest mastiff is seldom known to exceed three feet. The colour of his coat is generally a mixture of black, brown, and iron-grey ; though in Canada it is black, and in some parts almost entirely white. The head is long, with a pointed nose, formidable teeth, and sharp erect ears ; the eyes slant upwards, and are of a fiery green colour, and the aspect is marked with extreme ferocity.

Voracious appetite—Devastations.

The length of the animal's hair augments his apparent bulk ; and the tail is long and bushy.

The wolf is one of those animals whose carnivorous appetites is the most voracious, and whose methods of satisfying it are the most various; nature having amply furnished him with strength, agility, and all the requisites for pursuit or conquest: yet, with all these advantages he frequently dies with hunger: for being proscribed by man, and driven into the sequestered retreats of forests and mountains, the wild animals elude his attack by swiftness or artifice, and those he can take are not sufficiently numerous to satisfy the inordinate cravings of his stomach.

Wolves are naturally timid and cowardly ; but when pressed by hunger they become courageous from necessity, and seem to bid defiance to every danger. In countries where they are numerous, whole droves come down from the mountains, or out of the woods, and unite in the work of general devastation. They attack the sheep-folds, enter the villages, and carry off sheep, lambs, hogs, calves, and even dogs; for at such times every kind of animal food is equally agreeable. The horse and the ox, the only tame animals that can make any resistance against these enemies, are frequently overpowered by their numbers and their repeated attacks. Even man himself, on these occasions, frequently falls a victim to their rapacity. They are seldom driven back until many of them be killed; and when obliged

Extreme cunning—Devastations in Languedoc.

to retreat, soon return to the charge. Those that have once tasted human flesh, ever after particularly seek to attack mankind; and evidently prefer the shepherd to the flock.

: Although the wolf is so extremely gluttonous that he will sometimes fill his stomach with mud, and devour even his own species when pressed by hunger yet his rapacity does not exceed his cunning. Ever suspicious and mistrustful, he imagines every thing he sees is a snare laid to betray him. If he find a rein-deer tied to a post, to be milked, he dares not approach, lest the animal should be placed there only to entrap him; but no sooner is the deer set at liberty, than he pursues and devours it.

In the year 1764, an animal of this species committed the most terrible devastations in some particular districts of Languedoc, and soon became the terror of the whole country. According to the accounts given in the Paris gazette, he was known to have killed twenty persons, chiefly women and children; and public prayers are said to have been offered up for his destruction.

The following singular adventure of General Putnam, with one of these ferocious animals in North America, may not be unacceptable to the reader.

Some time after Mr. Putnam had removed to Connecticut, the wolves, which were then very numerous, broke into his sheep-fold, and killed seventy fine sheep and goats, besides worrying

Gen. Putnam's adventure with a wolf.

several lambs and kids. This dreadful havoc was committed by a she-wolf, which, with her annual whelps, had for several years infested the neighbourhood. The whelps were commonly destroyed by the vigilance of the hunters, but the old one was too sagacious to come within reach of gun-shot; and upon being closely pursued, she would generally fly to the western woods, and return the next winter with another litter of whelps.

This animal, at length, became such an intolerable nuisance, that Mr. Putnam and five of his neighbours agreed to hunt alternately, until they could destroy her; and two of them, in rotation, were to be constantly in pursuit. It was known, that, having lost the toes from one foot, by a steel trap, she made one track shorter than the other. By this vestige the pursuers recognized, in a light snow, the route of the wolf. Having followed her to Connecticut river, and found she had turned back toward Pomfret, they immediately returned, and by ten o'clock next morning, the blood-hounds had driven her into a cave about three miles distant from Mr. Putnam's house. The people soon assembled with dogs, guns, straw, fire, and sulphur, to attack their common enemy, and several attempts were made to dislodge her from the den, but the hounds came back wounded and intimidated; and neither the smoke of blazing straw, nor the fumes of

Gen. Putnam's adventure with a wolf.

burnt brimstone could compel her to quit her retirement.

Wearied with these fruitless attempts, which had continued nearly twelve hours, Mr. Putnam proposed to his negro servant to go down into the cavern and shoot the wolf; and on his declining the hazardous service, the general resolved himself to destroy the ferocious animal, lest she should escape through some unknown fissure of the rock. Accordingly, having provided himself with several strips of birch bark, to light him in this darksome cave, he pulled off his coat and waistcoat, and having a long rope fastened round his legs, by which he might be drawn back at a concerted signal, he entered head foremost, with the blazing torch in his hand.

The aperture of the cave, on the east side of a high ledge of rocks, is about two feet square: from thence it descends obliquely fifteen feet, and then running horizontally about ten more, it ascends gradually sixteen feet towards its termination. The sides of this cavity consist of smooth solid rocks, which seem to have been divided from each other by an earthquake. The top and bottom are also composed of stone, and the entrance, in winter, being covered with ice, is extremely slippery. It is in no place high enough for a man to raise himself upright, nor in any part more than three feet broad.

Mr. Putnam having groped his passage to the horizontal part of the cavern, the most terrifying darkness appeared in front of the dim circle of light afforded by his torch; and all was silent as the house of death. Cautiously proceeding onward, he came to the ascent, which he slowly mounted on his hands and knees, till he discovered the glaring eye-balls of the wolf, who was sitting at the extremity of the den. Startled at the sight of fire, she gnashed her teeth and gave a sullen growl; upon which the general kicked the rope, as a signal for pulling him out. The people at the mouth of the cave hearing the growling of the wolf, and imagining their friend to be in the most imminent danger, drew him out with such celerity, that his shirt was stripped over his head, and his skin severely lacerated. However he boldly persisted in his resolution, and, having adjusted his clothes, and loaded his gun with buck-shot, he descended a second time. On his second approach, the wolf assumed a very fierce and terrible countenance, howling, rolling her eyes, snapping her teeth, and dropping her head between her legs; but when she was on the very point of springing on him, Mr. Putnam fired at her head, and was immediately drawn out of the cave. After refreshing himself, and permitting the smoke to dissipate, he went down again, and on applying his torch to the animal's nose, found her dead; then taking hold of her ears,

Formerly numerous in England.

and kicking the rope, he drew her forth, to the astonishment of all the spectators.

Wolves were once so great a nuisance in this country, that rewards were formerly proposed for their destruction; but happily the race has here been long extirpated. King Edgar attempted to effect this beneficial purpose, by remitting the punishment of petty crimes on producing a certain number of wolves' tongues; and in Wales, certain taxes were commuted for an annual tribute of wolves' heads. Some centuries afterwards they increased to such a degree, as to require the serious attention of government, and great rewards were given for destroying them. Camden informs us, that certain lands were held on the condition of hunting and destroying the wolves that infested the country. In the reign of Athelstan, wolves abounded so much in Yorkshire, that a place of retreat was built at Flixton, near Scarborough, for the protection of passengers against their attacks.

The ravages of these animals being the most terrible in winter, when the ground is covered with snow, and food the most difficult to procure, our Saxon ancestors distinguished the month of January by the appellation of wolf-month. An outlaw was also among them denominated wolfshed, or one that was out of the protection of human society, and liable to be destroyed by the wolves.

Wolves continued to infest Ireland many centuries after their extinction in England, but now they are extirpated in that island; and their numbers are considerably diminished in most of the countries of Europe; a natural consequence of the increase of population, and the extension of agriculture.

Hunting the wolf is a favourite diversion among the great men in some countries; and it has been justly observed, this is a species of the chase at which reason need not blush, nor humanity drop a tear. To rid the world of such a pest is certainly meritorious; and for this purpose, both force and stratagem are employed.

One method is to take them in strong nets, into which they are driven by the hunters, who surround a large tract of land, and with drums, horns, and other instruments, accompanied with loud shouts from a large company, drive them into the entrance of the nets, where they are entangled and easily dispatched.

In some sequestered parts they hang a piece of carrion on the branch of a tree, having previously laid a train, by leaving, at proper intervals, small pieces of carrion, which the wolves, having an exquisite scent, can smell at a great distance. The hunters then wait till the approach of night, and with great circumspection approach the place, where they often find two or three wolves assembled, leaping up and endeavouring

Stupefaction of the wolf when ensnared.

to catch the bait; and while the animals are thus employed, they dispatch them with their fire-arms.

It is remarkable, that as soon as the wolf finds himself ensnared, and sees no possibility of escape, his courage entirely forsakes him, and he is for some time so stupified with fear, that he may be either killed or taken alive, without difficulty; and at that moment an individual may muzzle him, and lead him along like a dog; his consternation seeming to extinguish his ferocity and resentment.

Instances have sometimes occurred, of a wolf and a peasant being both snared in a pitfall, when the former was so completely stupified by the sense of his captivity, that he made no attempt to injure the peasant; who, however, must have been truly thankful when delivered from so formidable a companion.

In the northern parts of the world, wolves sometimes get on the ice of the sea, during the spring, in quest of the young seals, which lie there asleep. This repast, however, frequently proves fatal to them; for the ice, detached from the shore, carries them to a considerable distance from the land before they are sensible of it; and instances have occurred, of a large district being, by this means, delivered from those pernicious animals.

The female wolf goes with young about three months and a half: and when she is about to bring



WOLF.

Pub. April 1806. by James Currier, London.

Maternal attentions—Tame wolves.

forth, she searches carefully for some concealed place in the inmost recesses of the forests. Having fixed on a spot, she makes it perfectly smooth for a considerable space, by tearing up with her teeth all the brambles and brushwood. She then prepares a bed of moss, in which she brings forth five or six young. These she suckles for some weeks; and soon teaches them to eat flesh, which she prepares by tearing it into small pieces. She then brings them field-mice, young leverets, partridges, and living fowls; which they at first play with, and then kill; when this is done, she tears them to pieces, and gives a portion to each of her young. In about six weeks they leave their den, under the guidance of the mother, who leads them to some neighbouring pool to drink, conducts them back again, or teaches them to conceal themselves when any danger is apprehended. When they are attacked, she defends them with intrepidity; losing every sense of danger, and becoming perfectly infuriate. She never abandons them till their education is finished, and they have acquired talents fit for a life of rapine.

Notwithstanding the savage nature of these animals, they are still capable, when taken young, of being tamed. A singular instance of this was exhibited in a wolf belonging to the late Sir Ashton Lever; which, by proper education, was entirely divested of its ferocious character and manner. In Persia, and other Oriental countries,

Instances of temporary docility.

wolves are exhibited as spectacles to the people. When young, they are taught to dance, or rather to perform a sort of wrestling with a number of men; and Chardin observes, that a wolf well educated in dancing, is worth five hundred French crowns. The Comte de Buffon, who brought up several of them, informs us, that during the first year, they are docile and even caressing; and, if well fed, they will neither injure poultry nor any other animals: but when they are about eighteen months or two years old, they begin to exhibit symptoms of their natural ferocity; and, unless chained, they are apt to run off, and commit some depredations. He brought up one in a court yard, along with a number of fowls, till it was about nineteen months old; and during that time the poultry remained uninjured; but soon afterward the wolf killed the whole in one night, though he did not devour any of them.

A wolf, now in the Tower of London, was sent as a present from a Spanish admiral to Lord St. Vincent, with a flag of truce, at the time his lordship was blockading Cadiz. The animal being then young, was permitted to run about the cabin, and used to pick up the crumbs under his noble owner's table, exactly like a dog. About six years ago, Lord St. Vincent presented him to the king; and since his residence in the royal menagerie, a bull bitch has been introduced to his den, which has produced three puppies, one male and two females, bearing strong character-

Puppies of the wolf species—Wolves of America.

istics of the wolf species. These puppies I saw myself, and compared them with the wolf, towards the latter end of 1805, when they appeared perfectly strong and healthy.

These animals are now but rarely seen in the inhabited parts of America; yet the government of Pennsylvania some years ago offered a reward of twenty shillings, and that of New Jersey of even thirty shillings, for the killing of every wolf. In the infant state of the colonies it is said, that wolves came down from the mountains, often attracted by the smell of the hundreds of unfortunate Indians who died of the small-pox: but the animals did not confine their insults to the dead; they even devoured the sick and dying natives in their huts.

A young wolf from the Alps is now in Mr. Pidcock's menagerie at Exeter 'Change; and the keeper informs me that he regularly eats between three and four pounds of raw flesh per day.

THE FOX

IS more slender in form than the wolf, and considerably less in height and size; the tail, also, is much longer and more bushy; but the oblique direction of the eyes, and the form of the ears are similar to those of the wolf; and the head appears proportionably larger. He is remarkably playful, but can never be thoroughly

tamed, and like all savage animals half reclaimed, will, on the slightest offence, bite those with whom he is most familiar. He evidently languishes when deprived of liberty; and if kept too long in confinement, he falls a victim to melancholy.

This animal is esteemed the most sagacious and most crafty of all predaceous quadrupeds. The former quality he exhibits in his mode of providing himself an asylum, where he retires from pressing danger, resides and brings up his young; and his craftiness is discovered by his schemes to catch lambs, poultry, and all kinds of small birds. When this appears practicable, the fox fixes his abode on the border of a wood, in the neighbourhood of some farm or village. He there listens to the crowing of the cocks, and the cries of the poultry; which he perfectly scents at a considerable distance: he chuses his time with judgment; he conceals his road as well as his design; he slips forward with caution, sometimes even trailing his body; and seldom makes an unsuccessful expedition. If he can leap the wall, or creep in underneath, he ravages the courtyard, puts all to death, and retires silently with his prey; which he either conceals under herbage, or carries off to his kennel. In a few minutes he returns for more; which he carries off or conceals in the same manner, but in a different place: and thus he proceeds till the rising sun, or some movements in the house warn him to

Instances of cunning—Voracious appetite.

suspend his operations, and to retire to his den.

Bird-catchers are also well acquainted with the craft and ingenuity of this animal: for he usually visits their nets and birdlime early in the morning; and carries off successively the birds which are entangled; concealing them by the sides of highways, in the furrows, and under the herbage or brush-wood, where they are sometimes left two or three days, but where he knows perfectly to find them when pressed by hunger. He frequently discovers the nests of partridges and quails; when he seizes the mother on the eggs, and destroys a vast quantity of game. Such, indeed, is his voracity, that on a failure of better food, he will prey on rats, field-mice, serpents, lizards, and toads; and this is the only service that he appears to render to mankind. When pressed by hunger, he will also eat roots or insects; and the foxes near the sea coast will devour crabs, shrimps, or shell-fish with the utmost avidity.

Buffon informs us, that this daring robber sometimes attacks bee-hives, and the nests of wasps, for the sake of what he can find to eat: but his reception on these occasions is frequently so rough as to compel him to retire, that he may crush his assailants by rolling himself on the ground. Having thus rid himself of his troublesome companions, he instantly returns to the charge, and obliges them at length to forsake

their combs, and leave them to him as the reward of his victory.

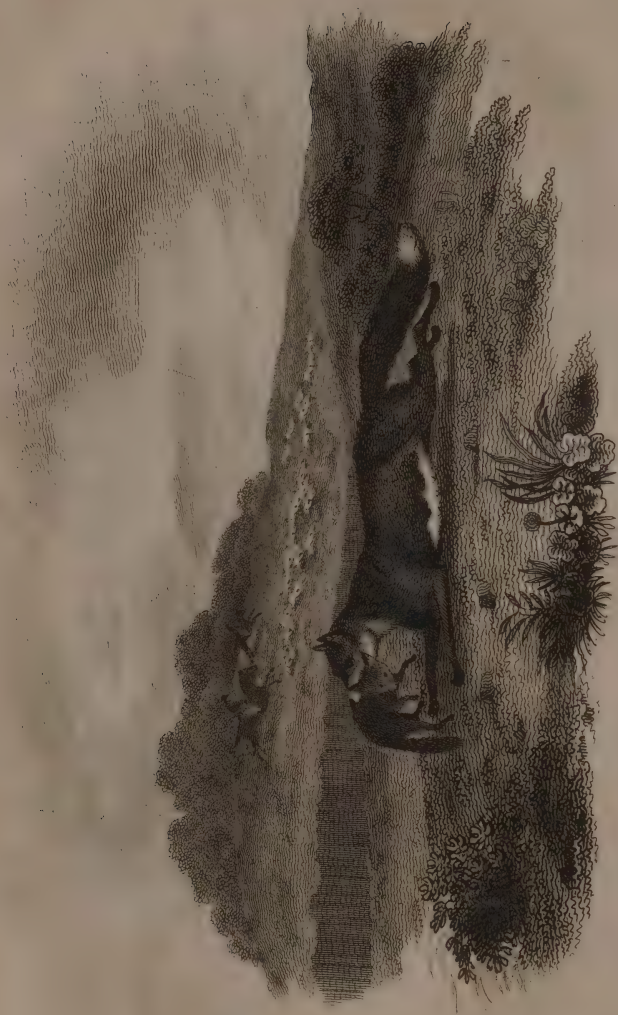
A great degree of cunning is exhibited by the fox in digging young rabbits out of their burrows. He does not enter the hole; for in this case he would have to dig several feet along the ground, under the surface of the earth; but he follows their scent above, till he comes to the end, where they lie; and then scratching up the earth descends upon them with perfect facility.

Pontoppidan, bishop of Bergen in Norway, observes, that when the fox perceives an otter go into the water to fish, he will frequently hide himself behind a stone; and when the otter comes to shore with his prey, will make such a spring upon him that the affrighted animal runs off and leaves his booty behind. "A certain person," says this author, "was surprised on seeing a fox near a fisherman's house, laying a parcel of torsks' (cod's) heads in a row. He waited the event; the fox concealed himself behind them, and made a booty of the first crow that came for a bit of them.

The fox is one of those animals that afford much diversion in the chase. When he finds himself pursued, he generally flees for refuge to his kennel; and penetrating to the bottom, lies till a terrier is sent in to him. If his den be under a rock or the roots of trees, which is often the case, he is safe; for the terrier is no match for him there, and he cannot be dug out by his

FOX.

Engraved from a drawing by Thomas Bewick, Esq.



enemies. But when a retreat is cut off, his shifts and stratagems to escape are equally numerous and surprising. He always takes to the woody parts of the country, and prefers the paths that are most embarrassed with thorns and briers. He runs in a direct line before the hounds, and at no great distance from them; and if hard-pushed, seeks the low wet grounds, as though conscious that the scent does not lie so well there. When overtaken, he becomes obstinately desperate, and defends himself against his adversaries even to the last gasp.

A remarkable instance of the affection of this animal is said to have occurred some years ago, near Chelmsford, in Essex. A female fox, that had but one cub, was unkennelled by a gentleman's hounds, and was hotly pursued. The poor animal, braving every danger rather than leave her cub to be worried by the dogs, took it up in her mouth, and fled before her pursuers in this manner for several miles. At last, taking her way through a farmer's yard, she was assaulted by a mastiff; and was obliged to drop her cub, which was taken up by the farmer; while the affectionate mother fortunately escaped the pursuit, and got off in safety.

The Rev. B. Daniel also mentions a female fox which was hunted near St. Ives, during three quarters of an hour, with a cub, about a fortnight old, all the time in her mouth, which she was at

Maternal care—The Arctic Fox.

length compelled to leave to the ferocity of her pursuers.

The females produce once a year, and have from three to six at a time. If the dam perceive the place of her retreat to be discovered, she carries off her cubs to a more secure asylum. The young are brought forth blind, like puppies; and are of a darkish brown colour. Foxes grow till they are eighteen months old, and live thirteen or fourteen years. In the winter season, these animals make an almost continual yelping; but in summer, when they shed their hair, they are generally silent.

THE ARCTIC FOX

IS smaller than the common species; and of a blueish-grey colour, which sometimes changes to white. The hair is remarkably thick and soft. The nose is sharp; and the ears are short, and almost concealed in the fur. The tail also is shorter and more bushy than that of the common fox. These animals are only found in the Arctic regions near the Polar Circle, and in the islands of the Frozen and Eastern Oceans, where they are extremely numerous.

In winter these animals usually bury themselves in the snow, where they lie as long as it continues of a sufficient depth; and they are said to

swim across rivers with great agility. Their prey is various; it being observed, that in Nova Zembla and Spitzbergen, they subsist chiefly on the smaller quadrupeds; in Greenland they are compelled to appease the cravings of appetite with berries, or whatever is thrown up by the sea; but in Lapland and the northern parts of Asia they find an abundant supply in those troops of Lemings which sometimes cover the face of the country. Their mode of obtaining fish for prey evinces an extraordinary share of cunning and ingenuity. They go into the water, and make a splash with their feet, in order to disturb the scaly tribes; and when these come up, they immediately seize them. An almost incredible degree of cunning is also displayed in their mode of entrapping the different kinds of waterfowl. They advance a little way into the water; and afterwards retire, playing a thousand antic tricks on the banks. The fowl approach; and on their coming near, the fox ceases his frolics that he may not alarm them, only moving his tail very gently; the former are said to be so foolish as to come up now and peck at it; when the fox suddenly springs round, and secures the unsuspecting victim. On the other hand, however, they are themselves frequently destroyed by the birds of prey; and Mr. Pennant observes, they are so simple that instances have occurred of their standing by while a trap was baiting, and immediately afterwards putting their heads into it.

Of the manners of these sagacious animals an ample and entertaining description has been given by a writer of respectability who was also an eye-witness of what he relates.

“ During my unfortunate abode,” says Steller, “ on Bering's Island, I had but too many opportunities of studying the nature of these animals; which far exceed the common fox in impudence, cunning and roguery. A narrative of the innumerable tricks they played us, might vie with Albertus Julius's History of the Apes on the Island of Saxenburg.

“ They forced themselves into our habitations by night as well as by day, stealing all that they could carry off; even things that were of no use to them, as knives, sticks, and clothes. They were so extremely ingenious, as to roll down our casks of provisions; and then steal the meat out with such skill, that at first we could not bring ourselves to ascribe the theft to them. While employed in stripping an animal of its skin, it has often happened that we could not avoid stabbing two or three foxes, from their rapacity in tearing the flesh out of our hands. If we buried it ever so carefully, and even added stones to the weight of earth that was upon it, they not only discovered it, but with their shoulders pushed away the stones, by lying under them, and in this manner helping one another. If, in order to secure it, we put any animal on the top of a high post in the air; they either dug up the earth

Concealing the prey.

at the bottom, and thus tumbled the whole down, or one of them climbed up, and with incredible artifice and dexterity threw down what was upon it.

“ They watched all our motions, and accompanied us in whatever we were about to do. If the sea threw up any animal, they devoured it before we could arrive to rescue it from them: and if they could not consume the whole at once, they trailed it in portions to the mountains; where they buried it under stones before our eyes, running to and fro as long as any thing remained to be conveyed away. While this was doing, others stood on guard, and watched us. If they saw any one coming at a distance, the whole troop would combine at once and begin digging altogether in the sand, till even a beaver or sea-bear in their possession would be so completely buried under the surface, that not a trace of it could be seen. In the night-time, when we slept in the field, they came and pulled off our night-caps, and stole our gloves from under our heads, with the beaver coverings, and the skins that we lay upon. In consequence of this, we always slept with our clubs in our hands; that if they awoke us we might drive them away, or knock them down.

“ When we made a halt to rest by the way, they gathered around us, and played a thousand tricks in our view; and when we sat still, they approached us so near that they gnawed the

Attacks on the dead; both men and animals.

things of our shoes. If we lay down as if intending to sleep, they came and smelt at our noses, to find whether we were dead or alive. On our first arrival, they bit off the noses, fingers, and toes of our dead, while we were preparing the grave; and thronged in such a manner about the sick and infirm, that it was with difficulty we could keep them off.

“Every morning we saw these audacious animals, patrolling on the strand among the sea-lions and sea-bears; smelling at such as were asleep, to discover whether some of them might not be dead: if that happened to be the case, they proceeded to dissect him immediately, and soon afterwards all were at work in dragging the parts away. Because the sea-lions, sometimes in their sleep, overlay their young, the foxes every morning examined the whole herd, one by one, as if conscious of this circumstance; and immediately dragged away the dead cubs from their dams.

“As they would not suffer us to be at rest either by night or day, we became so exasperated against them that we killed them, young and old, and harassed them by every means we could devise. When we awoke in the morning, there always lay two or three that had been knocked on the head the preceding night; and I can safely affirm, that during my stay upon the island, I killed above two hundred of these animals with my own hands. On the third day

Various appearances in different months.

after my arrival, I knocked down with a club, within the space of three hours, upwards of seventy of them, and made a covering to my hut with their skins. They were so ravenous, that with one hand we could hold to them a piece of flesh, and with a stick or axe in the other could knock them down.

“ From all the circumstances that occurred during our stay, it was evident that these animals could never before have been acquainted with mankind; and that the dread of man is not innate in brutes, but must be grounded on long experience.

“ Like the common foxes, they were the most sleek and full of hair in the months of October and November. In January and February the growth of this was too thick. In April and May they began to shed their coat; in the two following months they had only wool upon them, and appeared as if they went in waistcoats. In June they dropt their cubs, nine or ten at a brood, in holes and clefts of the rocks. They are so fond of their young, that, to scare us away from them, they barked and yelled like dogs, by which they betrayed their covert; but no sooner did they perceive that their retreat was discovered, than (unless prevented) they dragged the young away in their mouths, and endeavoured to conceal them in some more secret place. On one of us killing the young, the dam would follow him with dreadful howlings, both day and night; and

How conveyed to islands.—The Jackal.

would not cease till she had done her enemy some material injury, or was herself killed by him.

“Though now found in such numbers in this island, they were probably conveyed thither from the continent, on the drift ice; and being afterwards nourished by the great quantities of animal substances thrown up by the sea, they became thus enormously multiplied.”

These animals are killed for the sake of their skins; the fur of which is extremely light and smooth. The Greenlanders also eat the flesh, which they prefer to that of the hare; and split the tendons, which they use instead of thread.

THE JACKAL.

THE body of this animal is about thirty inches in length, and has a great resemblance to that of the fox; but the head is shorter, the nose blunter, and the legs longer. The tail is thickest in the middle, tapering to a point, and tipped with black. The hair is long and coarse, and the colour a dirty tawny, yellowish on the belly.

In their manners these animals seem nearly allied to the dog. When taken young, they soon become domestic, attach themselves to mankind, and distinguish their masters from other persons. They love to be fondled, and when called by name, will leap on a chair or table. They eat

Mode of hunting—Rapacity—Hideous cry.

greedily from the hand; and drink by lapping. They are also fond of playing with dogs; unlike most others of this genus, which run away from them.

In their native forests they associate in packs of from fifty to two hundred; where they hunt during the night, like hounds, in full cry. They devour lambs and poultry, ravage the streets of villages, and gardens near towns, and sometimes destroy children which are left unprotected. They are bold and audacious; sometimes entering the tent of a traveller while he is asleep, and stealing away any thing that is eatable. They are by no means choice in their food, but greedily disinter the dead, and devour the bodies when completely putrescent; on which account the graves are in many countries made of great depth. When animal prey is not to be met with, they feed on roots, fruits, &c. and in a state of domestication they seem particularly fond of bread.

In the day time they are silent, but their nocturnal howlings are dreadful; and when they are near, these are so horribly loud, that persons can with difficulty hear each other speak. Dillon says, their voice is like the cries of many children of different ages mixed together: when one commences, the whole pack immediately afterward join in the howl. In the day-time they are silent. All the beasts of the forest are roused by the cries of the jackal; and the lion and other

Why called the Lion's Provider—Mr. Pennant's account.

beasts of prey, by a kind of instinct, attend to it as a signal for the chace, and seize such timid animals as fly from the noise. From this circumstance it is that the jackal has obtained the title of the Lion's Provider. Jackals burrow in the earth; and leave their habitations during the night only, to range for prey. The females breed once a year, and produce from six to eight young at a birth. They are found in all the hot and temperate parts of Asia, and in most parts of Africa, from Barbary to the Cape of Good Hope.

Such is the substance of the account given by Mr. Pennant: that of the Comte de Buffon is different. He observes, that these are stupid and voracious animals, and very difficult to be tamed; and that with one kept nearly a twelve-month, neither food nor caresses would soften its disposition, though taken young and reared with the utmost attention. It would allow no one to touch it, but attempted to bite all persons indiscriminately. When suffered to be at liberty, nothing could prevent it from leaping on the tables, and carrying off every eatable it could lay hold of. This naturalist also asserts, that whenever this animal meets with travellers, it stops to reconnoitre them without any symptoms of apprehension: that it is exceedingly voracious; and, when nothing better offers, will even eat the leather of harness, boots, or shoes. Whenever any of these creatures begin to utter their cry, all the rest do the same; so that when one has en-

General description—Anecdote from M. Sonnini.

tered a house to steal, and hears his companions at a distance, he cannot refrain from adding his voice to the number, by which means they are frequently detected.

THE BARBARY JACKAL.

THE Barbary jackal is about the size of the common fox, and of a brownish fawn-colour. From behind each ear runs a black line; which soon divides into two, and extends downward along the neck. The tail is bushy, and surrounded by dusky rings.

This species is never found in flocks like the common jackal, but always singly. He ventures to approach, even in the open day, the houses near his subterraneous abode; and carefully concealed beneath thick bushes, he frequently creeps silently among the poultry, carries off their eggs, and leaves no traces of his exploits but the devastations themselves. One of his principal talents consists in the hunting of birds; and in this he exhibits such cunning and agility, that they seldom escape him. Of the cunning of this animal, a tolerable idea may be formed from the following narration of M. Sonnini.

“One day,” says that intelligent traveller, “as I was meditating in a garden, I stopped near a hedge. A Thaleb, hearing no noise, was coming through the hedge towards me; and when he

Anecdote related by M. Sonnini.

had cleared himself, was just at my feet. On perceiving me, he was seized with such surprise that he remained motionless for some seconds, without even attempting to escape; his eyes fixed steadily on me. Perplexity was painted in his countenance, by a degree of expression of which I could not have supposed him susceptible, and which denoted great delicacy of instinct. On my part I was afraid to move, lest I should put an end to this situation, which afforded me much pleasure. At length after he had taken a few steps first towards one side and then the other, as if so confused as not to know which way to escape, and keeping his eyes still turned towards me, he retired; not running, but creeping with a slow step, setting down his feet one after another with singular precaution. He seemed so much afraid of making a noise in his flight, that he held up his large tail, almost in a horizontal line, that it might neither drag on the ground, nor brush against the plants."

THE BEAVER.

THE general length of this animal is about three feet. The tail is oval, about eleven inches long, and compressed horizontally, but rising into a convexity on its upper surface: it is destitute of hair, except at the base, and is marked out into scaly divisions, like the skin of a fish:

Description—Natural sagacity.

this serves as a rudder, to direct the animal's motions in the water, and is a most useful instrument in other operations. The hair is smooth, glossy, and of a chesnut colour, varying sometimes to black; and instances have occurred, in which these animals have been found white, cream-coloured, or spotted. The ears are short, and almost hidden in the fur: the fore feet are small, and not unlike those of a rat; the hinder ones are large and strong, and the toes are connected by membranes. The front teeth are remarkably strong, and excellently adapted to the purpose of cutting wood; and, indeed, the animals subsist chiefly on the bark and leaves of trees.

No other quadrupeds seem to possess so great a degree of natural sagacity as the beavers. Industry is their distinguishing characteristic; and their labours seem the result of a social compact, formed for mutual preservation and support. They generally live in communities of two or three hundred; inhabiting dwellings which they raise to the height of six or eight feet above the water. They select, if possible, a large pond; in which they raise their houses on piles, forming them either of a circular or oval shape, with arched tops, thus giving them, on the outside, the appearance of a dome, while the interior resembles that of an oven. The number of houses varies from ten to thirty. If the animals cannot find a pond suited to their purpose, they fix on some level piece of ground, with a stream

Construction of dams, houses, &c.

running through it; and their operations in rendering this perfectly suitable for their habitations, evince a degree of sagacity and intelligence, of design and recollection, approaching in a surprising degree to the faculties of the human race.

Having divided themselves into companies, their first object is, to form a dam; and this they always do in the place most favourable for their purpose, cutting down trees of great size, driving stakes, five or six feet long, into the ground, in different rows, and interweaving them with small branches: they also fill up the interstices with clay, stones, and sand; which they ram so firmly down, that though the dams are frequently a hundred feet long, a man may walk over them with perfect safety. These are ten or twelve feet thick at the base; gradually diminishing towards the top, which is seldom more than two or three feet across. They are exactly level from end to end; perpendicular towards the stream; and sloped on the outside, where grass soon grows, and renders the earth more united and compact.

After completing the mole, their next business is to erect their houses. These are most ingeniously constructed with earth, stones, and sticks, cemented together, and plastered in the inside. The walls are about two feet thick; and the floors so much higher than the surface of the water, as always to preclude the danger of being flooded. Some of the houses have only one floor; others have three, and Du Pratz informs us, that in one

Habitations.

he examined he found fifteen different cells. The number of inhabitants in each house varies from two to thirty. Each individual is said to form its bed of moss, leaves, &c. and each family lays in a stock of winter provisions, consisting chiefly of bark and the tender branches of trees, cut into certain lengths, and piled up with great neatness and regularity.

In each house are two openings, one towards the land, by which the animals go in quest of food; the other under the water, and always below the thickness of the ice; by which means they are secured from the effects of frost.

When they have continued in the same place three or four years, they frequently erect a new house annually; and it sometimes happens, that the new building is so close to the old, that they cut a communication from one to the other; and this may probably have given rise to the idea of their having several apartments. When their houses are completely finished, they still carry on fresh works: nor do they desist even when the pond is frozen over; but continue their employment for some nights after, through a hole in the ice, which they keep open for that purpose.

In the summer season, they often forsake their houses, and ramble about from place to place, sleeping under the covert of bushes, near the water-side. On these occasions they have sentinels, who, by a certain cry, give notice of the approach of danger: in the winter they never stir out, except to

Hermits—Operations of a colony.

their magazines under the water; and during that season, they become remarkably fat.

It frequently happens that single beavers live by themselves in holes, which they make in the banks of rivers, considerably under the surface of the water, working their way upward to the height of several feet. These are called by the hunters hermits, or terriers; and it has been observed, that they are invariably distinguished by a black mark on the skin of their backs.

M. Du Pratz, in one of his excursions into the northern parts of Louisiana, had an opportunity of witnessing the operations of a colony of beavers: the substance of his narration may therefore be, probably, acceptable to the reader.

In a very retired place, at the head of a river, M. Du Pratz found a beaver dam. Not far from it, but hidden from the sight of the animals, he and his companions erected a temporary hut, in order to watch their operations at leisure. They waited till the moon shone pretty bright; and then, carrying branches of trees in their front to conceal themselves, they approached the dam; and having with great care cut, as silently as possible, a gutter, about a foot wide, through it, they immediately retired to the hiding place.

“As soon as the water through the gutter began to make a noise,” says our author, “we heard a beaver come from one of the huts and plunge in. We saw him get upon the bank, and

Assembling the colony—Repairs.

clearly perceived that he examined it. He then with all his force, gave four distinct blows with his tail; when immediately the whole colony threw themselves into the water, and arrived upon the dam. When they were all assembled, one of them appeared to issue some kind of orders; for they all instantly left the place, and went out on the banks of the pond in different directions. Those nearest to us were between our station and the dam, and therefore we could plainly observe their operations. Some of them formed a substance resembling a kind of mortar; others carried this on their tails, which served as sledges for the purpose. I observed that they put themselves two and two, and that each of a couple loaded his fellow. They trailed the mortar, which was pretty stiff, quite to the dam, where others were stationed to receive it; these put it into the gutter, and rammed it down with blows of their tails.

“The noise of the water soon ceased, and the breach was completely repaired. One of the beavers then struck two blows with his tail; and instantly they all took to the water without any noise, and disappeared.”

Our author and his companions afterwards retired to rest. In the morning, however, they went to the dam, to see its construction; for which purpose it was necessary that they should cut part of it down. The depression of the water in consequence of this, together with the

noise they made again roused the beavers, which seemed much disturbed by these exertions; and one of them in particular was observed several times to come pretty near the labourers, as if to examine what passed. As M. Du Pratz apprehended they might run into the woods, if farther disturbed, he again retired with his companion to their place of concealment.

“One of the beavers then ventured,” continues our author, “to go upon the breach, after having several times approached and returned like a spy. He surveyed the place; and then struck four blows, as he did the preceding evening, with his tail. One of those that were going to work passed close by me; and as I wanted a specimen to examine, I shot him. The noise of the gun made them all scamper off with greater speed than a hundred blows of the tail of their overseer could have done.” By firing at them several times afterwards, they were compelled to run precipitately into the woods; leaving their disturbers at liberty to examine their houses.

These habitations were made by posts fixed, slanting upwards to a point; and in the middle was the floor, resting firmly on notches in the post; and under one of them were fifteen pieces of wood, with the bark gnawed off, apparently designed for food.

The skin of the beaver has hair of two kinds: the lower, immediately next to the hide, is short, implicated together, and as fine as down; the

upper grows more sparingly, and is both thicker and longer. The latter is of little value; but the flix or down is wrought into hats, stockings, caps, and other articles of dress. These skins form a very important article of commerce, both with America and the northern countries of Europe. Upwards of fifty thousand have been sold by the Hudson's Bay company at one sale; and in the year 1798, a hundred and six thousand skins were collected in Canada and sent into Europe and China. Those are preferred which are taken during winter; especially if they have been worn for some time by the Indians, by which the long hairs fall off, leaving the fine downy fur perfectly free, and better fitted for every purpose of manufacture.

The medicinal substance called *castor*, is found in a liquid state in the inguinal glands of these animals; and each individual, both male and female produces usually about two ounces.

The female beavers bring forth towards the end of June; and generally have two young at a time; which continue with their parents till they are full three years old; when they pair off, and form houses for themselves. If, however, they are undisturbed, and have plenty of provisions, they remain with the old ones, and form a double society.

It is by no means surprising that such sociable animals should also exhibit instances of strong attachment to each other. Two young beavers

Victim of regret—Tame beaver.

that were taken alive, and brought to a neighbouring factory in Hudson's Bay, were preserved for some time, and thrive very fast, till one of them was accidentally killed. The survivor instantly felt the loss, and soon fell a victim to a voluntary abstinence from food.

The domestication of these animals has sometimes been attempted with success. Major Roderfort, of New York, had a tame beaver above half a year in his house, where he went about, quite loose. He was fed with bread, and sometimes fish, of which he was very greedy. As much water was put into a bowl as he wanted. All the rags and soft things he could meet with he dragged into the corner where he was accustomed to sleep, and made a bed of them. A cat in the house, having kittens, took possession of his bed; and he did not attempt to prevent her. When the cat went out, the beaver often took the kitten between his fore paws, and held it tenderly to his breast as if to warm it: as soon as the cat returned, he always restored his little charge. Sometimes he grumbled, but never attempted to bite.

The winter season is preferred by the hunters for seeking out the habitations of the beavers. They stop up the entrance to these on the side next the water, and enlarge the aperture on the land side; after which they introduce a dog so trained, that he will seize the beaver with his teeth, and suffer himself to be drawn out by the

hind legs. The Indians in the neighbourhood of Hudson's Bay first drain off the water of the dam, and then, covering the houses with nets, break in at the top; on which the terrified animals attempt to escape through the doors, and thus become entangled in the meshes.

In some parts of Lapland, beavers are caught in twigs of fir-trees; but it is worthy of remark, that whenever two have been caught together, the one has set the other at liberty.

The beaver is a native of most of the northern parts of Europe and Asia, but is principally found in North America. It also seems to have been once an inhabitant of Great Britain: for Giraldus Cambrensis says that these animals frequented the river Tievi in Cardiganshire, and that they had, from the Welsh, a name, signifying "the Broad-tailed animals." Their skins were valued by the laws of Howel the Good, in the tenth century, at the sum of a hundred and twenty pence each; and they seem to have constituted the chief finery and luxury of those days.

There are at present (1806,) in the menagerie at Exeter 'Change two beavers, brought over from Hudson's Bay by Captain Turner, who had also on board a male and female with three young ones; but having unfortunately lined the trough for their water with *lead* instead of tin, they were all poisoned by gnawing it, in one night. The animals now in Mr. Pidcock's possession are remarkably tame, and will even suffer themselves

Beavers at Exeter 'Change.

to be handled; but when approached by any one they utter a small plaintive cry, exactly like that of a new-born child. They are sometimes remarkably lively and frolicsome, wrestling and playing with each other, and if any thing be given them to play with, they seem greatly delighted, and drag it about as far as the limits of their small apartment will admit. The keeper informs me, that they will frequently build a kind of stage of the willow branches given them for food, and the straw which forms their litter; and that unless checked in their progress, they would soon escape, by this method, from their confinement. They also gnaw the wood work about them so incessantly, that it is necessary to cover it in many parts with plates of tin or iron.

Their food consists of willow-bark, cabbage-leaves, and bread; the latter of which they invariably sop in their trough before they use it. They often sit upright in the act of eating, and are sometimes observed to wash their feet, and pick their teeth. In a word, their disposition is perfectly gentle, and all their manners are peculiarly clean.

CHAP. III.

There through the piny forest half absorpt,
Rough tenant of those shades, the shapeless bear,
With dangling ice all horrid, stalks forlorn :
Slow-pac'd, and sourer as the storms increase,
He makes his bed beneath th' inclement drift;
And, with stern patience, scorning weak complaint,
Hardens his heart against assailing want.

THOMSON.

THE COMMON BEAR.

THIS is a savage and solitary animal, inhabiting the most inaccessible excavations of the mountains, or fixing its residence in the darkest and most impervious parts of the forest. Its ears are short and rounded; its eyes small, and furnished with a winking membrane; its snout is prominent, and its sense of smelling remarkably acute. In all animals of this species the legs and thighs are strong and muscular; the feet remarkably long; and the claws so long and sharp that they can ascend trees with tolerable facility. The voice of the bear is a deep and surly growl, which is frequently exerted without any provocation.

Numerous in Kamtschatka—Peaceful disposition.

These animals are so numerous in Kamtschatka, that they are often seen roaming about the plains in great companies; and they would certainly have long since depopulated the country, were they not here much more gentle than the generality of bears in other parts of the world. During the winter season they reside chiefly in the mountains; but in spring, they descend in multitudes to the mouths of the rivers, for catching fish, which swarm in all the streams of that peninsula. If there be plenty of this food, they eat nothing but the heads of the fish; and whenever they have the fortune to find the fishermen's nets, they dexterously drag them out of the water, and empty them of their contents.

When a Kamtschadale espies one of these animals, he endeavours to conciliate its friendship at a distance, accompanying his gestures by courteous words. The bears are indeed so familiar here, that even the women and girls, when gathering roots, herbs, or turf, for their fuel, in the midst of a whole drove of bears, are never disturbed in their employment; and if any of these animals approach them, it is only to eat something out of their hands. They have never been known to attack a man, except when suddenly roused from sleep; and it rarely happens that they turn upon the marksman, whether they be hit or not. This humane character of the Kamtschadale bear, however, procures him no exemption from persecution. Armed with a

spear, or club, the Kamtschadale goes in quest of the peaceful animal, in his calm retreat; who, meditating no attack, and only solicitous for his own defence, gravely takes the faggots which his persecutor brings him, and with them, chokes up the entrance to his den. The mouth of the cavern being thus closed, the hunter bores a hole through the top, and transfixes his defenceless foe with perfect security.

Sometimes they lay a board driven full of iron hooks, in the bear's track; placing near it something heavy, which the animal must throw down as he passes. Alarmed by this, he runs upon the board with greater force than he would otherwise do, and finding one of his paws fixed by the hooks, he attempts to free himself by striking it forcibly with the other; but his wounds and pain being now increased, he rises on his hind feet, and thus brings the board before his eyes; which so perplexes him, that he throws himself on the ground, and bellows with agony till his violent struggles at last destroy him.

In some parts of Siberia, the hunters erect a scaffold of several balks laid over each other; which fall altogether, and crush the bear, upon his stepping on the trap placed underneath. Another method is, to dig pits; in which a smooth and sharp-pointed post is fixed into the ground, rising about a foot above the bottom. The pit is carefully covered with sods; and across the track of the bear, a small rope with an elas-

Methods of taking bears.

tic figure is placed. As soon as the animal touches the rope, the wooden figure starts loose; and the bear, endeavouring to save himself by flight, falls with a violent force into the pit, and is killed by the pointed post. If he escape this snare, at a little distance, spiked irons, like those used to annoy an enemy's cavalry, frequently await him; among which, a similar image is erected. The persecuted beast, the more he strives to get free, fixes himself faster to the spot; and the concealed hunter soon dispatches him.

The Koriacks catch these animals by the following contrivance. They find some crooked tree, grown into an arched form; and at the bowed end of it they attach a noose, with a bait. The hungry bear is tempted by this object, and eagerly climbs into the tree; but on his moving the branch the noose draws together, and he remains suspended from the tree, which violently springs back into its former position.

In the mountainous parts of Siberia, they fasten a very heavy block to a rope, that terminates at the other end with a loop. This is laid near a steep precipice, in the path on which the bear is accustomed to go. On getting his neck into the noose, and finding himself impeded by the clog, the animal takes it up in a rage, and to free himself from it, throws it down the precipice; and he, being pulled after it, is instantly killed by the fall. Should this, however, not prove the case, he drags the block again up the mountain,



BEAR.

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and repeats his efforts; till, with increasing fury, he either sinks exhausted to the ground, or ends his life by one decisive plunge.

The strong predilection of this animal for honey, has given rise to one of the Russian methods of taking him. From those trees where the bees are hived, a heavy log of wood is suspended at the end of a long string. When the bear climbs up to get at the hive, he finds himself interrupted by the log; he pushes it aside, and immediately attempts to pass it; but in returning, it strikes him so violently, that in a rage, he flings it from him with greater force, which makes it return with increased violence upon himself; and he sometimes continues this, till he falls the victim of his own simplicity.

In some parts of the north, a single man will attack a bear in the open plains, without any other instruments than a sharp knife and a stiletto, pointed at both ends and fastened to a thong. The thong he wraps about his right arm, and taking his stiletto in one hand, and his knife in the other, he boldly approaches the animal, who rears on its hind legs to receive the attack. The instant the creature opens its jaws, the hunter thrusts his stiletto into its throat, and gives it such acute pain that all its resistance is at an end, and the victim may be either stabbed, or led home alive by the hunter.

No animal is so variously serviceable to the Kamtschadales, after its death as the bear. Of

the skin, they make beds, covertures, caps, and gloves, and collars for their sledge-dogs. Those who go upon the ice for the capture of marine animals, make their shoe soles of the same substance, which thus never slip upon the ice. The fat of the bear is held in great estimation, as equally savoury and nourishing; and, when liquified by melting, it supplies the place of oil. The flesh also is esteemed a great delicacy; and the intestines, when cleansed and properly scraped, are worn by the women to preserve their faces from the effects of the sun-beams, which here, being reflected from the snow, are generally found to blacken the skin; but by this means the Kamtschadale ladies preserve a fine complexion. The Russians of Kamtschatka make of these intestines window-panes, which are as transparent as Muscovy-glass. Of the shoulder-blades, are made sickles for cutting grass; and the heads and haunches are hung up as trophies and ornaments, near the huts of the natives.

The Kamtschadales are also greatly indebted to the bears, for the little progress they have hitherto made in their knowledge of physic and surgery: by observing what herbs the bears have applied to the wounds they have received, and what methods they have pursued when languid, and disordered, these people have learned to distinguish most of those simples which they have recourse to, either as external or internal applications. It is equally true, that they admit the

bears to be their dancing-masters; and, in what they call the bear-dance, every gesture and attitude of that animal is so faithfully imitated, as to afford sufficient indications to what they are indebted for this acquirement. They represent the bear's sluggish and stupid gait; and its different feelings and situations; as the young ones about the dam, the sports of the male with the female, and its agitation when pursued. All their other dances resemble this in many particulars, and those attitudes are deemed the nearest to perfection which are copied from the bear.

It is well known, that this animal may be rendered tame and obedient to its master. It may be taught to walk, to lay hold of a pole with its paws, and to perform a variety of tricks to entertain the multitude; who are highly pleased with the awkward measures which it seems to suit to the sound of an instrument, or to the voice of its leader. But the cruelties practised in giving it this sort of education are such as make sensibility shudder. Its eyes are frequently put out; and an iron ring being passed through the cartilage of the nose, to lead it by, it is kept from food, and beaten, till it yields obedience to the will of its cruel instructors. Some of them are taught to perform, by setting their feet upon heated iron plates, and then playing music to them while in this uneasy situation.

“That these cruelties,” says Mr. Bewick, “should be rewarded by numbers of unthinking

Bear baiting—Appearance of the cubs.

people, who crowd around to see the animal's rude attempts to imitate human actions, is not to be wondered at: but it is much to be wished that the timely interference of the magistrate would prevent every exhibition of the kind; that in England, at least, we might not be reproached with tolerating practices so disgraceful to humanity." The brutal custom of bear-baiting was formerly one of the most favourite diversions in England, and even deemed worthy the attention of people of fashion. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, it was thought an entertainment suitable for a foreign ambassador; and when her majesty visited Kenelworth castle, it was one of the amusements prepared for her gratification.

The female bear goes with young about six months, and generally brings forth two cubs at a time. These are at first round and almost shapeless, with pointed muzzles; but are not, as the ancient naturalists supposed, licked into regular form by the mother. They are about eight inches long when produced, and are said to be blind for nearly a month. The bears go into their winter retreats extremely fat; but as they eat nothing during that season, they come out excessively lean in the spring; and from the circumstance of nothing but a frothy slime having been found in the stomachs of those that have been killed on their re-appearance, it has been generally supposed, that they support themselves through the winter by sucking their paws.

The black bears are said to be so remarkably attached to each other, that the hunters never dare to fire at a young one, while the dam is on the spot; for, if the cub happen to fall, she becomes infuriate, and will either avenge herself, or perish in the attempt. If, on the contrary, the mother should be shot, the cubs will remain by her side long after she is dead, exhibiting every mark of regret and affliction. Some years since, a man nearly lost his life, in Hungary, by firing at a young bear, in the presence of its dam, who had been merely concealed from his sight by some bushes; for, at one blow with her paw, she tore off great part of his scalp. This animal seldom uses its teeth as weapons of defence, but generally strikes its adversary with its fore-paws like a cat; and if possible, seizes him between its paws, and presses him to death.

THE AMERICAN BEAR.

THIS species differs from the European bear, principally in being smaller; and in having a more lengthened head, pointed nose, and longer ears. The hair also is more smooth, soft, and glossy; and the cheeks and throat are of a yellowish-brown colour.

These animals arrive in Louisiana, driven thither by the snows of the more northern climates, towards the end of autumn. At this time they

Beaten paths—When hunted.

are always very lean; as they do not leave the north till the earth is covered with snow, and food is consequently scanty.

In the country near the Mississippi, they seldom venture to any great distance from the banks of that river; but on each side have in winter such beaten paths, that persons unacquainted with them would mistake them for the tracks of men. Du Pratz says he was once deceived by one of them, which appeared as though thousands of men had been walking along it bare-footed, although it was nearly two hundred miles distant from any human dwelling. "It is proper," says he, "to observe, that in those paths the bear does not pique himself upon politeness, and will yield the way to nobody; therefore, it is prudent for a traveller not to fall out with him for such a trifling affair."

Towards the end of December, when the bears are become so fat and lazy, that they can scarcely run, and are also in a condition to furnish a large quantity of oil, they are hunted by the American Indians; some of whom adopt such singular ceremonies in their chase, that the account of them inserted in Charlevoix Travels in North America may probably afford some entertainment to the reader.

"The chase of these animals is a matter of the first importance, and is never undertaken without abundance of ceremony. A principal warrior first gives a general invitation to all the hunters.

Ceremonies preparatory to a bear hunt.

This is followed by a strict fast of eight days, a total abstinence from all kinds of food; notwithstanding which, the day is passed in continual song. This is done to invoke the spirits of the woods to direct the hunters to the places where there are abundance of bears. They even cut the flesh in different parts of their bodies, to render the spirits more propitious. They also address themselves to the manes of the beasts slain in the preceding chases, as if these were to direct them in their dreams to plenty of game. One dreamer alone cannot determine the place of the chase; numbers must concur: but as they tell each other their dreams, they never fail to agree. This may arise either from contrivance, or from a real agreement in their dreams, on account of their thoughts being perpetually turned on the same thing. The chief of the hunt now gives a great feast, at which no one presumes to appear without previously bathing. At this entertainment they eat with great moderation, contrary to their usual custom. The master of the feast alone touches nothing; but is employed in relating to the guests ancient tales of the wonderful feats in former chases; and fresh invocations to the manes of the deceased bears conclude the whole.

“ They then sally forth amidst the acclamations of the village; equipped as if for war, and painted black. Every able hunter is on a level with a great warrior: but he must have killed a dozen great beasts before his character is esta-

Indian mode of taking bears.

blished; after which his alliance is as much courted as that of the most valiant captain. They now proceed in a direct line; neither rivers, marshes, nor any other impediments, stop their course, driving before them all the beasts they find. When they arrive at the hunting-ground, they surround as large a space as they can with their company; and then contract their circle, searching at the same time every hollow tree, and every place fit for the retreat of a bear: and they continue the same practice till the time of the chase is expired.

“As soon as a bear is killed, a hunter puts into his mouth a lighted pipe of tobacco, and, blowing into it, fills the throat with the smoke, conjuring the spirit of the animal not to resent what they are going to do to its body, nor to render their future chases unsuccessful. As the beast makes no reply, they cut out the string of the tongue, and throw it into the fire. If it crackle and shrivel up (which it is almost sure to do), they accept it as a good omen; if not, they consider that the spirit of the beast is not appeased, and that the chase of the next year will be unfortunate.

“The hunters live well during the chase, on provisions which they bring with them. They return home with great pride and self-complacency; and give a great entertainment, at which they make it a point to leave nothing uneaten. The feast is dedicated to a certain genius, whose

Indian hunters—Cubs frequently tamed.

resentment they dread if they do not eat every morsel, and even sup up the melted grease in which the meat was dressed. They sometimes eat till they burst, or bring on themselves some violent disorders. The first course is, the greatest bear they have killed: without even taking out the entrails, or skinning it; contenting themselves with merely singeing the skin, as is practised with hogs."

The Southern Indians of America, frequently tame and domesticate the young cubs of the bear; which are sometimes taken so young that they cannot eat; and on such occasions they often oblige their wives to suckle them.

Several authors of respectability unanimously assert, that neither European nor Indian ever killed an American bear with young. In one winter upwards of five hundred were killed in Virginia; among which were only two females, and those not pregnant. The cause assigned is, that the male has the same dislike to his offspring that the males of some other animals have; and therefore the females, previously to the time of parturition, retire into the depth of the woods and rocks, to elude the search of their savage mates.

These animals are found in all the northern parts of America; migrating occasionally southward in quest of food. Their flesh is said to taste like excellent pork.

THE POLAR BEAR.

THIS species differs from the common bear, in having its head and neck of a more lengthened form, and the body longer in proportion to its bulk. The ears and eyes are small; and the teeth remarkably large. The hair is long, harsh to the touch, and of a yellowish white colour; and its limbs are of great strength. The tips of the nose and claws are perfectly black.

These animals inhabit only the coldest parts of the globe, where the savage and dreary landscapes well accord with their sullen disposition.

In the polar regions they are seen in prodigious numbers; not only at land, but often on ice-floats several leagues at sea. They are even sometimes transported in this manner to the shores of Iceland; and after the long abstinence they must necessarily have undergone in the voyage, they will attack every object indiscriminately; but it is said, the natives easily elude their fury if they can throw in their way something to amuse them. "A glove," says Mr. Horrebow, "is very proper for this purpose; for the bear will not stir till he has turned every finger inside out, and this consequently takes up sufficient time for the person to escape."

It often happens, that when a Greenlander and his wife are paddling out at sea, by coming too near an ice-float, a white bear unexpectedly

Instances of ferocity and revenge.

jumps into their boat; and, if he does not upset it, sits calmly where he first alighted, and like a passenger suffers himself to be rowed along. The Greenlander is never very fond of his unwieldy guest, however, he makes a virtue of necessity, and hospitably rows him to shore.

The Polar bears are sometimes remarkably ferocious; and instances have occurred in the island of Nova Zembla, of their attacking seamen, seizing them in their mouths, carrying them off with the utmost ease, and devouring them even in sight of their comrades.

When irritated or injured, they also exhibit the most obstinate perseverance in seeking revenge; as appears from the following anecdote: Some years ago, the crew of a boat belonging to a ship in the whale-fishery, shot at a bear at a little distance, and wounded it. The animal immediately uttered the most dreadful howl, and ran along the ice towards the boat. Before he reached it, a second shot was fired, which hit him. This, however, served but to increase his fury. He presently swam to the boat, and in attempting to get on board, placed one of his fore feet upon the gunnel; but a sailor, having a hatchet in his hand, cut it off. The animal still continued to swim after them, till they arrived at the ship; and several shots were fired at him, which took effect: but on reaching the ship, he immediately ascended the deck; and the crew having fled into the shrouds, he was pursuing

Sagacity in searching for prey.

them thither, when a shot laid him lifeless upon the deck.

The hon. Robert Boyle has given an account of the sagacity of these quadrupeds in searching for prey; which it would be unpardonable to pass over in silence. "An old sea-captain," says our author, "told me that the white bears in or about Greenland, notwithstanding the coldness of the climate, have an excellent nose; and that sometimes when the fishermen had dismissed the carcase of a whale, and left it floating on the waves, three or four leagues from the shore, whence it could not be seen; these animals would stand as near the water as they could, and raising themselves on their hind legs, loudly snuff in the air, and with the two paws of their fore legs drive it as it were against their snouts; and when they were (as my relater supposed) satisfied whence the odour came, they would cast themselves into the sea, and swim directly towards the whale: as this person and others observed, who had sometimes the curiosity to row at a distance after them, to see whether their noses would serve them for guides when their eyes could not."

The favourite food of the Polar bear consists of seals, the carcasses of whales, and other fish: they also frequently attack the Arctic walrus, or sea-horse, but that creature, from the prodigious strength and sharpness of its tusks, generally comes off victorious. When at a distance from the sea, they prey on deer, hares, young birds,

Mutual affection between the dam and cubs.

&c. and sometimes eat various kinds of berries which happen to fall in their way. During summer, they reside chiefly on the ice-islands; and frequently pass from one to another. Mr. Bewick asserts, that they are capable of swimming to the distance of six or seven leagues; but Buffon says, they never swim more than a league at a time; that in Norway they are followed in small boats, and are soon fatigued; that also they sometimes dive, but this is only for a few seconds; and lest they should be drowned, they suffer themselves to be killed on the surface of the water. When the masses of ice are detached by strong winds or currents, the bears allow themselves to be carried along with them; and as they cannot regain the land, nor abandon the ice on which they are embarked, they often perish in the open sea.

The Polar bear brings forth two young at a time, and the affection subsisting between these and the parent is so ardent, that they will sooner die than desert each other in distress. The following anecdote will afford sufficient proof of the veracity of this assertion. "While the *Carcass* frigate, which went out some years ago to make discoveries towards the North Pole, was locked in the ice, early one morning, the man at the mast-head gave notice that three bears were making their way over the Frozen Ocean, and were approaching very fast towards the ship. They had, no doubt, been invited by the scream of some blubber of a sea-horse that the crew had

Instance of affection between a dam and her cubs.

killed a few days before; which had been set on fire, and was burning on the ice at the time of their approach. They proved to be a she bear and two cubs, nearly as large as the dam. They ran eagerly to the fire; and drew out of the flames part of the flesh of the sea-horse, that remained unconsumed, and ate it voraciously. The crew from the ships threw great lumps of the flesh of the sea-horse, which they had still remaining, upon the ice. These the old bear fetched away singly, laid every lump before her cubs as she brought it, and, dividing, it gave to each a share, reserving but a small portion for herself. As she was fetching away the last piece, the sailors levelled their muskets at the cubs, and shot them both dead; and in her retreat, they wounded the dam, but not mortally. It would have drawn tears of pity from any but unfeeling minds, to have witnessed the affectionate concern expressed by this poor animal in the last moments of her expiring young. Though she was herself so dreadfully wounded, that she could scarcely crawl to the place where they lay, she carried the lump of flesh she had fetched away, as she had done others before; tore it in pieces, and laid it before them; and when they did not eat, she laid her paws first upon one, and then upon the other, endeavouring to raise them up; uttering the most piteous moans. When she found she could not stir them, she went off, and when she had got to some distance, looked

Instance of affection—Dread of heat.

back and moaned ; and that not availing to entice them away, she returned, and smelling round them, began to lick their wounds. She went off a second time as before ; and, having crawled a few paces, looked again behind her, and for some time stood moaning. But still her cubs not rising to follow her, she returned to them again ; and with signs of inexpressible tenderness, went round, pawing them, and moaning. Finding at last, that they were cold and lifeless, she raised her head towards the ship, and uttered a growl of despair, which the mariners returned with a volley of musket-balls. She then fell between her cubs, and expired in the act of licking their wounds."

The males, also, at a certain time of the year, are so fondly attached to their mates, that Mr. Hearne asserts, he has often seen one of them, when a female was killed, come and put his two fore paws over her, and in that position suffer himself to be shot rather than quit the body.

During the winter these animals retire and bed themselves deep in the snow, or under the fixed ice of some eminence ; where they remain in a state of torpidity till the Arctic regions are revisited by the beams of the sun.

Of all animals the Polar bear is one that seems to have the greatest dread of heat. Professor Pallas mentions one that would not stay in its house in the winter ; although in Siberia, where the climate is very cold. And one that was kept

in the Museum of Natural History at Paris, was so greatly incommoded by the heat, that the keepers, throughout the year, were obliged to throw upon it sixty or seventy pails of water a day to refresh it.

A very fine animal of this species is now in the Tower of London.

THE RACoon.

THIS animal is somewhat less than the badger; being about two feet in length, exclusive of the tail, which measures twelve inches. The back is rather arched, and the hind legs are larger than the others. The head resembles that of a fox, but the ears are much shorter, and the upper jaw very pointed and larger than the other. The colour of the body is a dark grey; but the face is white, and the eyes are surrounded by a black band, from which a dusky stripe runs along the nose. It inhabits North America, and several of the West India islands.

The food of these animals, in a state of nature, consists principally of maize, sugar-canes, and various sorts of fruits. They are also supposed to devour birds, and their eggs. When near the shores, they live much on shell-fish, and particularly on oysters. It is said, that they will watch the opening of the shell, dextrously put in their paw, and tear out the contents: sometimes how-

Singular mode of catching crabs.

ever the oyster suddenly closes, and detains the thief, till he is drowned by the return of the tide. They also exhibit much cunning in the taking of crabs. Brickell says, that the racoon will stand on the side of a swamp, and hang its tail over into the water; which the crabs, mistaking for food, lay hold of; and as soon as the animal feels them pinch, he pulls them out with a sudden jerk. He then takes them to a little distance from the water's edge; and, in devouring them, is careful to get them cross-ways in his mouth, lest he should suffer from their nippers. A species of land crab, found in holes of the sand in North Carolina, are frequently the food of the racoon. He takes them by putting one of his fore-paws into the ground, and hauling them out. These animals feed chiefly by night; as, except in dull weather, they sleep during the greatest part of the day.

The racoon is an active and lively animal; his sharp claws enable him to ascend trees with great facility, and he even ventures to run to the extremities of the branches. When tamed, he is good-natured and sportive; but is almost constantly in motion, and as mischievous and inquisitive as a monkey; examining every thing with his paws, which he uses as hands, to lay hold of whatever is given to him, and to carry the meat to his mouth. He sits up to eat; is very fond of sweet things; and, if permitted, will completely intoxicate himself with strong liquors.

Manners of a tame racoon—Occasional depredations.

Of a racoon formerly the property of M. Blanquart des Salines, the following particulars have been related. Before it came into his possession, it had always been chained. In this state of captivity it was very gentle, but exhibited little inclination for fondness. His chain sometimes broke, and on such occasions liberty rendered him insolent. He took possession of an apartment, which he would allow none to enter; and it was with considerable difficulty, that he could again be reconciled to bondage. When loosed from his confinement, he would express his gratitude by a thousand caressing gambols. But this was by no means the case when he effected his own escape. He would then roam about, sometimes for three or four days together, upon the roofs of the neighbouring houses; descend, during the night, into the court-yards, enter the hen-roosts, strangle all the poultry, and eat their heads. His chain rendered him more circumspect, but by no means more humane. When he was in confinement, he employed every artifice to make the fowls grow familiar with him: he permitted them to partake of his victuals; and it was only after having inspired them with the greatest notions of security that he would seize one, and tear it in pieces. Some young cats also became the victims of his artifice.

He used to open oysters with surprising dexterity. His sense of touch was very exquisite; for in all his little operations, he seldom used

Mode of opening oysters—Resentment—Dislike of children.

either his nose, or his eyes. He would pass an oyster under his hind paws; then, without looking at it, search with his fore-paws for the weakest part; there sinking his claws, he would separate the shells, and leave not a vestige of the fish.

He was extremely sensible of ill-treatment; nor could an injury be easily effaced from his recollection. A servant, one day, gave him several lashes with a whip; but the man could never afterwards effect a reconciliation. Neither eggs, nor fish, of which he was exceedingly fond, could appease his resentment. At the approach of this servant, he always flew into a rage; his eyes kindled, he endeavoured to spring at the man, uttered the most mournful cries, and rejected every thing presented to him, till the disagreeable object retired. He never allowed hay or straw to remain in his nest; but chose rather to lie upon wood.

He disliked children; their crying irritated him, and he made every effort to spring upon them. A small bitch, of which he was very fond, he chastised severely when she barked too loud.

This animal is hunted for the sake of its fur; which is used by the hatters, and is considered as next in value to that of the beaver; it is also used in linings for garments. The skins, when properly dressed, make good gloves, and upper-leathers for shoes. The flesh of the racoon, is frequently eaten by the negroes, who seem to reckon it excellent food.

Racoons in the Tower, and Exeter 'Change.

There is at present (1806) a female racoon in the Tower of London, where it has resided about fourteen years, and is now blind with age. The male which formerly shared its apartment, accidentally got to the den of the Greenland bear last year, and was devoured.

It is generally asserted, that the racoon washes its meat: but Mr. Greenfield assures me, that neither of the above animals have ever evinced such an inclination. A racoon from North America is now among the animals in the menagerie at Exeter 'Change, and is said to consume about half a pound of raw meat per day.

THE BADGER.

THE general length of this animal is about two feet and a half; and that of the tail, six inches. Its body and legs are thick. The eyes and ears are small; and the claws of the fore legs long and straight. It is of a grey colour above, and in the under parts entirely black. The face is white; and along each side of the head, runs a black pyramidal stripe, including the eyes and ears. The hair is coarse, and the teeth and claws remarkably strong. It inhabits almost all the temperate parts of Europe and Asia.

The badger is naturally harmless and inoffensive, living principally on roots, fruit, and other

vegetable food; but it is provided with such weapons, that few creatures can attack it with impunity. The address and courage with which it defends itself against beasts of prey, have caused it to be frequently baited with dogs, as a popular amusement; and on such occasions, though naturally of an indolent disposition, he makes the most vigorous exertions, and sometimes inflicts desperate wounds on his adversaries. The skin is so thick and loose, as not only to resist the impression of the teeth, but also to suffer him, even when within their gripe, to turn round upon and bite them in the most tender parts. Thus does he resist the repeated attacks both of men and dogs; till overpowered by numbers, and enfeebled by wounds, he is at length obliged to submit.

These animals generally live in pairs, and produce four or five young annually. They reside in woody places, in the clefts of rocks, or in burrows which they form in the ground. They continue in their habitations during the day, and do not appear abroad till evening. At times, from indulging in indolence and sleep, they become excessively fat. During the severe weather of winter they remain in a state of torpidity, sleeping on a commodious bed of dried grass. Under the tail is a receptacle, in which is secreted a white fetid substance, that constantly exudes through the orifice, and occasions a most unpleasant smell.

Sacking the badger.—Description of the glutton.

Badgers are not known to do any further mischief to mankind, than in scratching and rooting up the ground, in quest of food: which is always performed during their nocturnal excursions. This circumstance has given rise to one of the modes practised in taking them. Their den is discovered; and when they are absent in the night, a sack is fastened at the mouth; one person remaining near the hole to watch; while another beats round the fields with a dog, in order to drive the animals home. As soon as the man at the den hears that one has run in for refuge, he immediately seizes the mouth of the sack, ties it, and carries it off; which is usually called, "Sacking the Badger." If caught before they are grown up, they may be tamed.

The skin of the badger dressed with the hair on, is used for various purposes; and the hairs are made into brushes for painters. The flesh, also, when the animals are in good condition, is said to make excellent hams and bacon.

THE GLUTTON.

THIS animal derives its appellation from its voracious appetite, and is found in Siberia, and the northern parts of Europe and America. The length of its body is about three feet, exclusive of the tail, which usually measures one foot. The general colour is a reddish brown, but along the

Cruel attacks on the rein-deer.—Extreme voracity.

back, of a shining black. The fur is held in great estimation, for its peculiar softness and glossy appearance.

The legs of the glutton are very short, and consequently unfit for pursuit; but the claws are admirably adapted for climbing trees, where it frequently watches whole days together in expectation of prey. The elk and rein-deer are its favourite food, and when either of these passes under the tree, the glutton instantly darts upon its back; and, after fixing himself firmly between the horns, tears out its eyes: this torments the animal to such a degree, that, either to put an end to its torments or to get rid of its cruel enemy, it strikes its head against the trees till it falls down dead; or if this does not happen, its enemy soon brings it to the ground by sucking its blood; and then continues to devour the flesh till it sinks in a state of torpidity by the side of its hapless victim. In this situation it remains till returning animation enables it to renew the savage banquet, which never terminates till the carcase be wholly consumed.

Gluttons feed also on hares, mice, birds, and even on putrescent flesh; and it is said by the Norwegians (though probably without foundation) that they are sometimes obliged to relieve themselves by squeezing their over-swollen bodies between two trees; by this means exonerating their stomachs of that food which has not time to digest.

Prodigious strength—Boldness and sagacity.

The strength of this animal is so great, that three stout greyhounds are scarcely able to overcome him. One that was put into the water, had two dogs let loose at him. The glutton soon fixed his claws into the head of one of his enemies, and had the sense to keep him under water till he was suffocated. When attacked, he makes a stout resistance; for he will tear even the stock from a gun with his teeth, or break the trap in pieces in which he is caught. Yet, if taken young, he may be rendered tame, and is capable of learning many entertaining tricks.

In a state of nature, he suffers men to approach him without exhibiting the least sign of fear, and even without any apparent wish to avoid them. This may be the effect of living in desert countries; generally out of the sight, and consequently removed from the attacks of man. He sometimes goes in quest of snares laid for other animals, and devours the game from the traps; but has too much sagacity to suffer himself to be taken.

The Kamtschadales esteem the skin of this animal so highly, that they say the celestial beings wear garments made of no other fur than this; and they would consider a man as most superbly attired, if he had on the skin of a glutton. The women decorate their hair with the white paws of this animal, which they esteem an elegant addition to their dress.

THE WOLVERINE.

THIS quadruped resembles the wolf in size, and the glutton in the formation of its head. The upper parts and the belly are of a reddish brown: the sides are yellowish brown; and a band of this colour crosses the back near the tail, which is long and of a chesnut colour: the face is black. The legs are remarkably strong, short, and black; and the soles of the feet are covered with hair.

The pace of the wolverine is very slow; but this defect is amply compensated by sagacity, strength, and acuteness of scent. They burrow in the ground; and, from the fierceness of their disposition, are said to be even a terror to the wolves and bears. They are also possessed of great courage and resolution. One of them has been known to seize on a deer that an Indian had killed; and though the Indian advanced within twenty yards, he still refused to relinquish his prize, and even suffered himself to be shot on the fallen animal. They have also been sometimes seen to take a deer from a wolf, before the latter had time to begin his repast after killing it. Indeed their amazing strength, and the length and sharpness of their claws, enable them to make a vigorous resistance against almost every other animal.

As a proof of their prodigious strength, there

Instance of prodigious strength.

was one at Churchill, on Hudson's Bay, some years since, that overset the greatest part of a pile of wood, which measured upwards of seventy yards round, and contained a whole winter's firing, to get at some provisions that had been concealed there by the company's servants when going to the factory to spend the Christmas holidays.

These animals are chiefly found in the northern regions of America.



CHAP. IV.

Peaceful beneath primeval trees, that cast
Their ample shade o'er Niger's yellow stream,
And where the Ganges rolls his sacred wave :
Or mid the central depth of black'ning woods,
High rais'd in solemn theatre around ;
Leans the huge elephant, wisest of brutes !
O truly wise ! with gentle might endow'd ;
Though powerful, not destructive !

THOMSON.

THE ELEPHANT.

THE elephant is the largest of all quadrupeds, and an animal, which, in many respects, merits our attention. When at full growth, it measures from ten to twelve feet in height from the ground to the highest part of the back, which is six or seven feet broad, and somewhat protuberant. It has a round thick body, a large short head, and a short neck ; a long proboscis, snout, or trunk, hanging down almost to the ground ; a little narrow mouth, with two long tusks proceeding from the upper jaw, one on each side of the proboscis ; besides four strong grinders in each jaw ; small

The proboscis or trunk.

piercing eyes, and large pendulous ears. Its legs are round and thick, supporting its vast weight like so many columns; and its feet are short, those before being broader and rounder than those behind, each of them defended by four hoofs. Its skin is very hard, especially on the breast: its colour is generally a deep ash-coloured brown, approaching to black.

The proboscis or trunk of the elephant is of such a structure, that he can extend or contract, dilate, raise or depress, and bend or twist it about at pleasure. Sometimes he makes it of a concave, sometimes of a convex form; now doubles it, again expands it, and in short turns it round every way with surprising agility. By this member he takes in his meat and drink, and conveys them to his mouth; by this he takes up a vast weight, levels trees, unfastens the locks and bolts of doors, and makes use of it as a hand upon all occasions: it likewise serves for the purposes of smelling and respiration.

It is really wonderful to observe how nimbly the elephant moves this trunk, which is six or seven feet long, and of considerable bulk at its origin, though it gradually tapers towards the extremity. The shortness of the elephant's neck is compensated by the length of this member, which Dr. Derham says is so admirably contrived, so curiously wrought, and applied with so much agility and readiness by that unwieldy creature to its several occasions, that he thinks it a manifest instance of the Creator's wisdom.

Grinders—Tusks—Skin, of the elephant.

The grinders of the elephant are of such a thickness, both in the upper and lower jaw, as contributes to render the mouth narrow; nor need it be broader, because the strength of the grinders is so great, as to comminute the aliments at once in such a manner, that they do not want to be moved to and fro in the mouth, in order to be farther masticated, as is usual with other animals; and therefore the tongue is small, short, and round, (not thin and flat, as in an ox) and has a smooth surface.

The tusks of this animal, which are what we call ivory, vary in size; but the longest imported into England are about seven or eight feet long, and weigh from a hundred, to a hundred and fifty pounds. It is but rarely that they are seen in the females; and when they do appear, they are small, and their direction is somewhat downward.

The skin of the elephant, where not callous, is extremely sensible. Indeed the animal feels so acutely the stinging of flies and other insects, that he not only employs his natural motions, but even the resources of his intelligence, to rid himself of this annoyance. He strikes them with his tail, his ears, and his trunk; contracts his skin, in order to crush them between its wrinkles; drives them off with branches of trees, or bundles of long straw; and when all these artifices prove unavailing, he collects dust with his trunk, and covers all the more tender parts of his skin

Food—Longevity.

with it. Buffon remarks, that an elephant has been observed dusting himself in this manner several times in a day; and always at the most proper season, namely, after bathing.

The natural food of these animals is grass, and when that is wanting they dig up roots with their tusks. They have a very acute sense of smelling, by which they readily find out their food, and avoid all noxious herbage. When tamed, they eat hay, oats, barley, &c. and drink a vast quantity of water, sucking it up by the trunk, as we have already observed, and thence conveying it to the mouth. It appears to have been a custom to give them spirituous liquors when they went to battle, in order to make them inebriated and furious.

The elephant is said to live to a great age, even to a hundred and twenty, two hundred, or three hundred years. Tavernier, who travelled into India, says, he never could learn exactly how long the elephant lived; but one of the keepers told him, that he knew such an elephant to have been in his great grand-father's, grand-father's, and father's custody, which he computed not to have been less than a hundred and twenty or thirty years. It is, indeed, generally allowed, that this animal lives to a great age, though it is subject to several distempers.

Elephants take great care of their young, rather chusing to lose their own lives than that they should lose theirs. They always go in herds, the

largest foremost; and, when they are to pass a river, they lift the young ones across on their tusks, twisting the proboscis round their middle. When they find any of their species dead in the woods, they cover the carcase with branches of trees, grass, or what else they can get: and, if one of them be wounded, the rest take care of him, bring him food, and run together to save him from the hunter. It was formerly asserted, that the female sucked her own milk, and conveyed it to her young by means of her proboscis or trunk. This, however, appears to have been entirely erroneous; for J. Corse, Esq. informs us in the Asiatic Researches, that he has seen young elephants, from one day to three years old, sucking their dams; and this gentleman asserts, that they suck constantly with their mouths, never using their trunks except to press the breast, which by natural instinct they seem to know will make the milk flow more freely. Here we must also observe, that the actual observations of modern authors have completely overturned what has been so often related concerning the mode of connection between the male and female, their supposed delicacy, and a variety of other hypotheses equally void of foundation.

The elephant, when tamed, becomes the most gentle and most obedient of animals; and seems formed in a peculiar manner for the service of man in the hot climates. Strong, active, and laborious, it is capable of the greatest exertions;

Utility of tame elephants.

and owing to its sagacity and recollection, it may be easily trained to almost any particular use. He soon learns to comprehend signs, and even to distinguish the tones of command, anger, or approbation, which regulate his actions accordingly. He never mistakes the voice of his master, but receives his orders with attention; and, if properly treated, soon evinces the most affectionate attachment; learns to bend his knees for the accommodation of those who mount him; allows himself to be clothed, and seems highly gratified when covered with gilded harness and brilliant trappings. When employed in drawing chariots, waggons, &c. he draws steadily, and never turns restive, provided he is not insulted with improper chastisement, and that the people who labour with him have the air of being pleased with the manner in which he employs his strength. His *cornac* or conductor, generally rides on his neck, and uses an iron rod, pointed at the end, with which he pricks the head or sides of the ears, in order to turn him, or to urge him forward. But words are generally sufficient; especially if the animal has had time to become acquainted with his conductor.

One of these animals, in a state of domestication, performs more work than perhaps six horses; but he requires from his master much care, and a great quantity of good victuals.

The reader may form a tolerable notion of the labour performed by these noble animals, if he

consider, that all the sacks, bales, tuns, &c. transported from place to place in India, are carried by elephants; that they carry burthens, not only on their bodies, but on their necks, their tusks, and even in their mouths, by giving them the end of a rope, which they hold with their teeth; that, from the banks of the rivers, they put these bales or sacks into boats without wetting them, laying them down gently, and arranging them properly; that, when disposed in the places where their masters direct, they try with their trunks whether the goods are properly stowed; and, if a tun or cask roll, they immediately go in quest of stones to prop, and render it firm.

M. Phillipe one day went to the river at Goa, near which place a large vessel was building. Here was a spacious area filled with beams for that purpose. Some men tied the ends of heavy beams with a rope, which was handed to an elephant, who carried it to his mouth, and after twisting it round his trunk, drew it, without any conductor, to the place where the ship was building. One of the animals sometimes drew beams so large, that twenty men would have been scarcely able to move them. It was also particularly worthy of remark, that when other beams obstructed the road, the sagacious creature elevated the ends of his own beam, that it might run easily over those which lay in his way.

M. D' Obsonville asserts, that he once saw two elephants employed in beating down a wall, to

Surprising instances of strength.

which their keeper had instigated them by a promise of some fruits and brandy. They united their efforts; and, doubling up their trunks, which were covered with leather, to guard them from injury, they thrust against the strongest part of the wall: and by repeated strokes continued their exertions, carefully watching the effects of the equilibrium: at length, having made one violent effort, they suddenly drew back, to avoid being wounded; and the whole came tumbling to the ground.

Elephants were formerly used in India for the purpose of launching vessels. One was ordered to force a ship of considerable burthen into the water; but the task proved superior to his strength. His master, in a sarcastic tone, desired the keeper to take away that *lazy* beast, and bring another in its stead. The poor animal immediately renewed his efforts with such violence, that he fractured his skull, and died on the spot.

Previous to the use of fire arms these animals were successfully employed in battle; but in the present system they would only serve to embarrass and confuse an army. In dragging artillery over mountains, however, they are extremely serviceable, and on this occasion their care and sagacity are particularly conspicuous. They are also extremely useful in the fording of rivers, by carrying over the baggage on their backs. After the keeper has loaded them with several hundred weight, he fastens ropes to them; of which the

Fording rivers—Kept for ostentation.

soldiers taking hold, either swim, or are drawn through the water. Another use still made of this animal in war, is to force open the gates of a city or garrison which is closely besieged. This he does by setting his hinder parts against them, and moving backwards and forwards till he has burst the bars, and forced an entrance: to prevent which, many of the Oriental garrisons have large spikes stuck in their gates, projecting to a considerable distance.

In many parts of India, these animals are kept more for grandeur and ostentation than for use. And their keeping is attended with a prodigious expence; as they devour vast quantities of provision, and must sometimes be regaled with a plentiful repast of cinnamon, of which they are exceedingly fond. It is no uncommon thing for a nabob, if he wish to ruin a private gentleman, to make him a present of an elephant; which he is afterwards under the necessity of maintaining at a greater expence than he can afford: for, should he attempt to part with it he would unavoidably fall under the displeasure of the grandee; besides forfeiting all the honour which is conferred by so magnificent a present.

In some of the Oriental countries elephants perform the parts of public executioners; breaking every limb of a criminal with their trunks, trampling him to death, or impaling him on their tusks, according to their directions.

History affords many surprising instances of

Instances of attachment and gratitude.

the fidelity, gratitude, and sagacity of the elephant. Ælian relates, that when Porus, king of India, was subdued by Alexander the Great, he was wounded with several darts; which the elephant drew out of his body with his proboscis; and when he perceived his master fainting by the loss of blood, gradually leaned himself down till he fell flat upon the ground, that his rider might receive no harm by alighting. Athenæus mentions the gratitude of an elephant to a woman that had done him some service, and used to lay her child near him when it was very young; for, the mother dying, the elephant was so fond of the child, that he showed great uneasiness when it was taken out of his sight, and would not eat his food unless the nurse laid the child in the cradle between his feet, but then he would eat heartily. When the child slept, he chased away the flies with his proboscis, and when it cried he would toss or rock the cradle till it fell asleep.

An elephant in Adsmear, which often passed through the market, as he went by a certain herb-woman, always received from her a mouthful of greens: at length he was seized with a periodical fit of rage, broke his fetters, and, running through the market, put the crowd to flight, and among others this woman, who, in her haste forgot a little child she had with her. The animal, recollecting the spot where his benefactress usually sat, took up the infant gently in his trunk, and placed it in safety on a stall before a neighbouring house.



THE ELEPHANT.

Engraved by J. H. P. from a drawing by J. H. P.



Care of children.

Another elephant, in his periodical madness, killed his keeper, upon which the wife took her two children and flung them before the enraged animal, saying, "Now you have destroyed the father, you may as well put an end to their lives and mine." The creature instantly relented, placed the largest of the children on his back, adopted him for his keeper, and would never afterwards be mounted by any other person.

Dr. Darwin was informed, on the most respectable authority, that the elephants which are employed to carry the baggage of the armies belonging to the East India company are put each under the care of one of the natives of Hindostan; and whilst this person and his wife go into the woods to collect leaves and branches of trees for his food, they fix him to the ground by a length of chain, and frequently leave a child yet unable to walk, under his protection; and the intelligent animal not only defends it, but, as it creeps about, when it arrives near the extremity of his chain, he wraps his trunk gently round its body, and brings it again into the centre of his circle.

Tavernier relates, that one of the kings of India was on a hunting-party, with his son, upon an elephant, when the animal, being seized with one of his fits of madness, became at once ungovernable and furious. The keeper told the king, that, to allay the fury of the animal, who would otherwise bruise them all to death among the

Effects of an elephant's fury—Defence of a soldier.

trees, one of the three must sacrifice his life; and that he would willingly yield his own for the preservation of the other two. In return, he only intreated that the king would provide for his family after his death. This being promised, he immediately threw himself under the feet of the animal; who seized him with his trunk, and trampled him to death. The elephant soon seemed to repent of this rash action, and without any further difficulty, became perfectly quiet and submissive. The grateful monarch provided munificently for the wife and family of the faithful fellow who had so cheerfully sacrificed his life for the preservation of himself and son.

It also appears from indubitable authority, that a soldier at Pondicherry, who was accustomed to give part of his victuals to one of these animals, having one day drank too freely, and finding himself pursued by the guards, took refuge under the elephant's body and fell asleep. In vain did the guard endeavour to force him from this asylum, for the elephant resolutely protected him. Next morning, the soldier, recovering from his intoxication, shuddered with horror to find himself under the belly of this huge animal, but the elephant immediately began caressing him with his trunk, to make him understand that he might now depart in safety.

M. le Baron de Lauriston, during one of the late wars in India, was induced to go to Laknaor, at a time when an epidemic distemper was mak-

Interesting adventure at Laknaor—Instances of revenge.

ing the greatest ravages amongst the inhabitants. The principal road to the palace-gate was covered with the sick and dying, extended on the ground, at the very moment when the nabob must necessarily pass. It appeared impossible for his elephant to do otherwise than tread upon and crush many of these poor wretches in his passage, unless the prince would stop till the way could be cleared; but he was in haste, and such tenderness would be unbecoming in a personage of his importance. The sagacious animal, however, without appearing to slacken his pace, and without having received any command, assisted them with his trunk, removed some, set others on their feet, and stepped over the rest with so much address and assiduity, that not one person was injured.

But as elephants are remarkable for their love, gratitude, and tenderness, so they are also subject to resentment. Acosta asserts, that a soldier in Cochin, a town on the coast of Malabar, having thrown a nut at an elephant, the animal took it up and hid it; and some days after, seeing the soldier pass by, he threw the nut in his face, making a great noise, and going away leaping and dancing. Another soldier in the same town, meeting an elephant with his keeper, would not give way to them; whereupon the keeper complained of the affront to the elephant, who, some time afterwards spying the soldier by the side of the river that runs through the town, ran hastily

Humorous revenge.

towards him, lifted him up with his trunk, and plunged him several times in the river; after which he drew him out, leaving him to be laughed at by the spectators.

Captain Hamilton observes, that, when he was at Achen, in the island of Sumatra, he saw an elephant that had been kept there above an hundred years, and by report was then three hundred years old; he was about eleven feet high, and remarkable for his extraordinary sagacity, of which he gives an instance in a laughable piece of revenge. "In 1692," says he, "a ship, named the Dorothy, commanded by Captain Thwaites, called at Achen for refreshments, and two English gentlemen in that city went on board to furnish themselves with such European necessaries as they had occasion for; and, amongst other things, they bought some Norwich stuffs for clothes, and, there being no English taylor to be had, they employed a Surat, who kept a shop in the great market-place, and had commonly several workmen sewing in his shop. It was the elephant's custom to reach in his trunk at the doors or windows as he passed along the side of the street, as begging for the decayed fruits and roots, which the inhabitants generally gave him. One morning, as he was going to the river to be washed, with his rider on his back, he happened to put his trunk in at the taylor's window, and the taylor, instead of giving him what he wanted, pricked him with his needle. The elephant

seemed to take no notice of the affront, but went calmly on to the river, and washed; after which he stirred up the mud with one of his fore feet, and sucked up a great quantity of the dirty water into his trunk. Then passing unconcernedly along the same side of the street, where the taylor's shop was, he put in his trunk at the window; and spurted out the water with such a prodigious force, that the offender and his journeymen were blown off their board, almost frightened out of their senses."

A painter was desirous of drawing the elephant which was kept in the menagerie at Versailles, in the attitude of holding his trunk raised up in the air, with his mouth open. The painter's boy, in order to keep the animal in this posture, threw fruit into his mouth, but as he frequently deceived him, the elephant grew angry; and (as if conscious that the painter's intention of drawing him had occasioned the insult,) he turned his resentment upon the master, and taking a quantity of water in his trunk, spurted it over the drawing and completely spoiled it.

At the Cape of Good Hope it is customary to hunt and kill these animals, for the sake of their teeth; and upon such occasions three horsemen, well mounted, and armed with lances, attack the animal alternately, each relieving the other as they see their companion pressed, till their victim is totally subdued. Three Dutchmen, brothers, who had accumulated considerable wealth by this

Revenge of injuries.

business, determined to retire to Europe and enjoy the fruit of their labours; but resolved, before they went, to have a last chace by way of amusement. They soon met with their game, and began the attack in the usual manner; but unfortunately one of their horses fell and flung his rider; the enraged animal instantly seized his fallen adversary, flung him up to a vast height in the air, and received him on one of his tusks: then turning towards the two other brethren, held out to them the impaled wretch writhing on the bloody tooth.

A sentinel, belonging to the menagerie at Paris, always requested the spectators not to give elephants any thing to eat. This conduct particularly displeased the female; who beheld him with a very unfavourable eye, and had several times endeavoured to correct his interference by sprinkling his head with water from her trunk. One day, when several persons were assembled to view these animals, a by-stander offered the female a bit of bread. The sentinel perceived it, and opened his mouth to give his usual admonition; but she, placing herself immediately before him, discharged in his face a considerable stream of water. A general laugh ensued; but the sentinel, having calmly wiped his face, stood a little on one side, and continued as vigilant as before. Soon afterwards, he found himself under the necessity of repeating his admonition to the spectators; but no sooner was this uttered, than

Instance of revenge—Mutual attachment.

the female seized his musket, trod it under her feet, and did not restore it till she had twisted it nearly into the form of a screw.

An elephant that was exhibited in France some years ago, seemed to know when it was mocked by any person; and remembered the insult till an opportunity offered for revenge. A man deceived it, by pretending to throw something into its mouth: the animal gave him such a blow with its trunk, as knocked him down, and broke two of his ribs. After which it trampled on him with its feet, broke one of his legs, and bending down on its knees, endeavoured to push its tusks into his body; but they luckily ran into the ground on each side of his thigh, without doing him any injury.

Of the mutual attachment of these noble animals, the reader may form a tolerable idea from the following relation, extracted from a French journal.---Two young Ceylonese elephants, a male and a female were, in 1786, sent to the stadholder of Holland from the Dutch East-India company. They had been separated, in order to be conveyed from the Hague to Paris; where, in the Museum of Natural History, a spacious hall was prepared for their reception. This was divided into two apartments, which had a communication by means of a large door resembling a portcullis; the inclosure round the apartments consisted of strong wooden rails. The morning after their arrival, they were conveyed to this habitation.

Instance of mutual affection.

The male was first brought. He entered the apartment with suspicion, reconnoitred the place, and examined the strength of each bar separately with his trunk. He even attempted to turn the large screws on the outside, which held them together, but could not effect it. When he arrived at the portcullis which separated the apartments, he raised with his trunk the perpendicular bar by which it was fastened; then pushed up the door, and entered the second apartment where he received his breakfast. These two animals had been separated for the convenience of carriage, and had not seen each other for some months. Their unexpected meeting was therefore productive of the most lively joy. They immediately rushed towards each other, sending forth cries of joy so animated and loud as to shake the whole hall; and breathing through their trunks with such violence, that the blast resembled an impetuous gust of wind. The female expressed her delight by flapping her ears, with astonishing velocity, and drawing her trunk over the body of the male with the utmost tenderness, and then moving it affectionately towards her own mouth. The joy of the male was more steady; but he seemed to express it by a copious flood of tears. From this time they occupied the same apartment; and their mutual tenderness and affection excited the admiration of all who visited them.

On their arrival in Holland, these animals were

Method of catching wild elephants.

conveyed in a vessel up the river Waal to Nimeguen, whence they were driven on foot to Loo. The attendants had much difficulty in inducing them to cross the bridge at Arnheim: for although they had fasted for several hours, and a quantity of food was placed for them on the opposite side of the bridge, much time elapsed before they would venture themselves upon it; and at last they would not make any step without first carefully examining the planks, to see that they were firm. During the time they were kept at Loo they were so perfectly tame, that they were suffered to range at liberty; and would sometimes even come into the room at the dinner hour, and take food from the company. After the conquest of Holland, they were treated with such cruelty by some of the spectators who crowded to visit them, that they lost much of their gentleness; and their subsequent confinement during their removal to Paris, rendered them in some degree ferocious towards spectators.

The method of catching wild elephants at Tipuri, in the East Indies, as communicated in the Asiatic Researches, by J. Corse, Esq. is well worth the reader's attention.

“ In the month of November, when the weather has become cool, and the swamps and marshes are dried up, the male elephants come from the recesses of the forests, and make nocturnal excursions into the plains; where they frequently destroy the labours of the husbandman,

by devouring and treading down the rice, sugar-canes, &c.

These depredations oblige the farmers to keep regular watch under a small cover, erected on the top of a few long bamboos raised about fourteen feet from the ground. From this elevated station an alarm is easily communicated, by means of a rattle to the neighbouring villagers, who either scare the intruders away with reiterated shouts, or impede their progress by lighting a number of fires. To secure one of the males a very different method is used from that which is employed to catch a herd; for the former is taken by female elephants trained for the purpose, and the latter is driven into a strong enclosure.

“As the hunters are perfectly acquainted with the places where the elephants come out in quest of food, they advance towards them, in the evening, with four trained females, that being the number of which each hunting party consists; when the nights are dark, the male elephants are discovered by the noise they make in cleaning their food, by striking it against their fore-legs; and by moonlight the hunters can see them distinctly at a considerable distance.

“As soon as they have determined on the *goondah*, or male elephant, they mean to secure, three of the trained females are conducted slowly and silently toward the place where he is feeding. When the male perceives them approaching, if he take the alarm and be viciously inclined, he

beats the ground with his trunk, and exhibits evident marks of displeasure; and if they continue to advance he will immediately attack and gore them with his tusks; for which reason they take care to make a timely retreat. But should he be amorously disposed, as is generally the case, he allows the seducers to approach, and sometimes advances to meet them.

“ When, from these appearances, the hunters judge that he will become their prize, they conduct two of the females, one on each side close to him, and make them press gently with their posteriors against his neck and shoulders; and the third female, being brought forward, places herself directly across his tail. In this situation, instead of suspecting any design against his liberty, the *goondah* begins to toy with the females, and caress them with his trunk. While he is thus employed, the fourth female is brought near; and the proper assistants creeping under the belly of the third female, put a slight cord round the hind legs of the *goondah*: should he move, it is easily broken; in which case, if he does not appear suspicious of what is going forward, the hunters proceed to tie his legs with a strong cord, called the *bundah*, which is passed alternately from one leg to another, and as these ropes are short, six or eight are commonly employed, for the convenience of being more readily put round his legs; and they are made fast by another cord, which is passed a few turns perpen-

Method of catching wild elephants.

dicularly between his legs, where the folds of the *bundahs* intersect each other. A strong cable with a running noose is then put round each hind leg, and again above them several additional *bundahs* are made fast in the same manner as the others were.

“ The putting on these cords generally takes up about twenty minutes, during which time the most profound silence is observed, and the hunters, who lie flat upon the necks of the females, are screened from the *goondah's* observation by a covering of dark coloured cloth.

“ While the people are employed in tying the legs of the *goondah*, he caresses sometimes one, and sometimes another of his seducers; and he is so well secured by the pressure of a female on each side, and one behind, that he can hardly turn himself, or see any of the people who keep under the belly of the third female, which stands across his tail. If, however, the *goondah* happen to break loose, the hunters can, upon the first alarm, mount on the backs of the tame elephants, by a rope that hangs ready for the purpose, and thus elude the effects of his fury. This, however, happens but very seldom.

When the *goondah's* hind legs are properly secured, the hunters retire to a little distance, and he naturally attempts to follow the females; but, finding his legs tied, he is roused to a proper sense of his situation, and retreats toward the jungle: the hunters follow, at a moderate dis-

Mode of taking wild elephants.

dance, on the tame elephants, accompanied by a number of people, who, as soon as the *goondah* passes near a stout tree, make a few turns of the long cables that are trailing behind him around his trunk: his progress being thus impeded, he becomes outrageous, exerting his utmost force to disengage himself, and sometimes goring the earth with his tusks. If, by these exertions, the ropes are broken, and he escapes into the jungle, the hunters dare not follow, lest they should be attacked by the other wild elephants; but if the cables prove sufficiently strong, and the animal exhausts himself by his fruitless endeavours, the females are again brought near and placed in their former positions. After getting the *goondah* nearer the tree, the hunters carry the ends of the long cables around his legs, and then about the trunk of the tree, making two or three turns, so as to prevent even the possibility of his escape. For still greater security, his fore-legs are tied in the same manner that the hind-legs were, and the cords which have been placed above the *bundahs* are made fast on each side, to trees, or stakes driven deep into the earth. During the process of tying his legs, the people employed cautiously avoid going within reach of his trunk; and if he attempt to seize them, they either retreat to the opposite side of the females, or get upon them by means of the above-mentioned rope.

When the *goondah* has become rather settled,

Mode of taking wild elephants.

and eaten a little food with which he is supplied by the hunters, a number of strong ropes are put about his neck and body, and a couple of large cables are fastened to two of the tame females, in order to conduct him to a proper station. Every thing being ready, and a passage cleared from the jungle, the ropes that confined his legs are taken off, and the tame elephants pull him forward, while the people from behind urge him on. Instead of advancing in the direction they wish, he exerts all his force to retreat into the jungle; tears up the earth with his tusks; utters the most piteous groans; and sometimes bruises himself so severely, that he does not survive his exertions more than two or three days. In general, however, he becomes reconciled to his fate, and, if necessary, may be conducted from the jungle as soon as a passage is cleared.

When brought to his destined station and properly secured, the captive elephant is treated with a mixture of gentleness and severity; and, in a few months, he is expected to become tractable and submissive to his keeper. It is a singular fact, that though the *goondah* uses his utmost exertions to disengage himself when taken, and would infallibly kill any person who came within his reach, yet he very seldom attempts to hurt the females that have seduced him; but, on the contrary, whenever they are brought near him, he seems pleased, and comforted for the loss of his liberty.

Mode of taking wild elephants.

Female elephants are never taken singly, but always in the herd, which consists of fifty or a hundred animals of both sexes, and is always under the direction of one of the oldest females, and one of the largest males.

When a herd is discovered, about five hundred people are employed, who divide themselves into small parties at the distance of twenty or thirty yards from each other, and form an irregular circle, in which the elephants are enclosed. Each party then lights a fire, and clears a foot-path to the nearest station, by which a regular communication is soon formed through the whole circumference, and reinforcements can easily be brought to any quarter upon a sudden emergency. The first circle being thus formed, the remaining part of the day and night is spent in keeping watch, cooking victuals, &c. Early next morning, a man is detached from each station to form another circle in the direction where they wish the elephants to advance. When this is accomplished, the people, stationed by the new circle, put out their fires, and file off to the right and left; thus leaving an opening for the herd to pass through, and, also, by this movement both the old and new circle are united, and form an oblong.

The people from behind now begin shouting and making a noise with their rattles, &c. to cause the elephants to advance; and as soon as they are got within the new circle, the people

Mode of taking wild elephants.

close up, take their respective stations, and pass the night as before. In the morning the same process is repeated; and in this manner the elephants advance slowly in that direction where they find themselves least incommoded by the clamour of the hunters; and feed as they go along, upon the leaves of bamboos, branches of trees, &c. which come in their way. As the people employed on this occasion are extremely slow in their operations, they seldom bring the herd above one circle in a day, except on an emergency, when they exert themselves and advance two circles. They have no tents, nor covering but the thick woods, which, in the day-time, keep off the solar rays; and at night they sleep upon mats, wrapt up in a piece of coarse cloth, and surrounded by their fires. Sentinels supply these fires with fuel, and particularly with green bamboos, which, by their snapping and crackling noise, deter the elephants from coming near; so that the herd generally remains near the centre of the circle. Should they, however, attempt to advance, an alarm is given, and the people frighten them back by shouting and springing their rattles.

The *keddah*, or place where the herd is to be secured, consists of three enclosures, communicating with each other by narrow gateways. The outer enclosure is the largest, the middle one is generally the next in size, and the third is the smallest. These enclosures are all pretty strong,

Mode of taking wild elephants.

but the third is the strongest; nor are the elephants deemed secure till they have entered it. This, like the two other enclosures, has a deep ditch on the inside; and upon the bank of earth thrown up from the excavation, a row of strong palisades of middle-sized trees is planted, strengthened with cross bars, and supported on the outside by strong posts like buttresses, having one end sunk in the earth, and the other pressing against the cross bars to which they are fastened. It must, also, be observed, that the palisades and gateways are all disguised with branches of trees and bamboos stuck in the ground, so as to give them the appearance of a natural jungle.

It seems, that the greatest difficulty consists in getting the herd to enter the first enclosure; for, notwithstanding all the precautions that have been used, the leader appears to suspect some snare, from the difficulty and hesitation with which she generally passes into it: but as soon as she enters, the whole herd implicitly follow. As soon as they have all passed the gateway, fires are kindled round the greatest part of the enclosure, and particularly at the entrances, to prevent the animals from returning; and the hunters from without make a terrible noise by shouting, beating their drums called *tomtoms*, firing blank cartridges, &c. to urge the herd on to the next enclosure. The elephants, finding themselves ensnared, begin to scream violently;

Mode of taking wild elephants.

but finding the entrance, through which they lately passed, barricadoed up, and seeing no opening, except the gateway leading to the next enclosure, they, at length, pass through, and are, soon afterwards, forced into the last enclosure. Being now completely surrounded, and perceiving no means of escape, the elephants appear outrageous, and frequently rush toward the ditch, in order to break down the palisades, screaming louder than any trumpet, and sometimes growling like the murmur of distant thunder; but wherever they make an attack they are opposed by blazing fires, and the triumphant shouts of the hunters. When they find all their exertions fruitless, they continue sulky, and seem to meditate their escape; but the hunters form an encampment around them; watchmen are posted close to the palisades; and every possible precaution is used to prevent them from breaking loose.

After the herd has remained a few days in the *keddah*, the doors of an outlet called the *roomee* are opened, and one of the elephants is enticed to enter, by having food thrown first before, and then further on into the passage. When the animal has passed beyond the gate, a person from without shuts it by pulling a string, and secures it first by throwing two bars across it on each side, and afterwards by pushing horizontal bars through the openings of the palisades, both before and behind those crosses. Alarmed at the noise that is made in shutting the gate, the ele-

Mode of taming elephants.

phant immediately retreats backward, and, on finding himself hemmed in, he runs against the bars of the outlet, and endeavours to break them down by leaping upon them with his fore-feet, and battering them with repeated blows of his head; but in spite of all his exertions he is eventually secured with ropes, and dragged to his proper station by two tame females, assisted by the hunters.

As soon as each elephant is brought to the appointed place, he is put under the care of a keeper, who is appointed to attend and instruct him. Under this man there are three or four others, who assist in supplying food and water till the animal becomes sufficiently tractable to feed himself. A variety of soothing and caressing arts are practised: sometimes the keeper threatens, and even goads him with a long stick pointed with iron; but more generally coaxes and flatters him, scratching his head and trunk with a long bamboo, split at one end into many pieces, and driving away the flies from his sores and bruises. In order to keep him cool, he likewise squirts water all over him: taking care to stand out of the reach of his trunk.

In a few days he advances cautiously to his side, and strokes and pats him with his hand, at the same time speaking in a soothing voice; and after a little while, the animal begins to know his keeper and obey his commands. By degrees the latter becomes so familiar as to mount upon

Mode of taming elephants—Elephant hunting.

his back from one of the tame elephants; and gradually increases the intimacy as the animal becomes more tame, till at length he is permitted to seat himself on his neck, from which place he is afterwards to regulate all his motions. While they are training in this manner, the tame elephants lead the others out alternately, for the sake of exercise; and likewise to ease their legs from the cords, which are apt to gall them, unless they are regularly slackened and shifted.

In five or six weeks the elephant becomes obedient to his keeper, his fetters are taken off by degrees, and generally in about six months he suffers himself to be conducted from one place to another. Care, however, is always taken not to let him approach his former haunts, lest a recollection of them should propel him to attempt the recovery of his liberty.

The mode of elephant-hunting in Abyssinia is thus described by Mr. Bruce: The men who make the hunting of elephants their business, dwell constantly in the woods, living entirely upon the flesh of the animals they kill, which is chiefly that of the elephant or rhinoceros. They are called Agageers; a name derived from the word Agar, which signifies to ham-string with a sharp weapon. More strictly speaking, however, it means, the cutting of the tendon of the heel; and is a characteristic of the manner in which they kill the elephant. Two men, quite naked, to prevent their being laid hold of by the trees

or bushes in making their escape from this vigilant enemy, get on horseback. One of them sits on the back of the horse, sometimes with a saddle, and sometimes without one, with only a switch or short stick in one hand, carefully managing the bridle with the other; behind him sits his companion, armed with a broad-sword. His left hand is employed in grasping this weapon by the handle; and in the other hand he holds the blade, of which about fourteen inches are covered with whip-cord; and, though the edges of the lower part of the sword are as sharp as a razor, he carries it without a scabbard.

As soon as an elephant is discovered, the horseman rides as near to his face as possible; or, if he attempt to escape, crosses him in all directions, exclaiming, "I am such a one, and such a one, and such a one, this is my horse, that has such a name; I killed your father in such a place, and your grandfather in such another place, and I am now come to kill you, who are nothing in comparison with them." This nonsense the elephant is supposed to understand; who, chafed and angry at hearing the noise immediately before him, attempts to seize the Agageer with his trunk; and, intent upon this, follows the horse every where, turning round and round with him, neglecting to make his escape by running straight forward, in which consists his only safety. After having made him turn a few times in pursuit of

Elephant hunting in Abyssinia.

the horse, the horseman rides close up beside him, and drops his companion just behind, on the off side; and while he engages the elephant's attention upon the horse, the other behind gives him a drawn stroke just above the heel, into what in the human subject is called the tendon of Achilles. This is the critical moment; the horseman wheels round, again takes up his companion, and rides off at full speed after the rest of the herd, if they have started more than one; and sometimes a skilful Agageer will kill three out of one herd. If the sword be sufficiently keen, and the man not timid, the tendon is entirely separated; or, if not cut through, it is generally so far divided that the animal, with the stress he puts upon it, breaks the remaining part asunder. In either case, he remains incapable of advancing a step, till the horseman returning, or his companions coming up, transfix him with javelins and lances; when he falls to the ground, and expires from loss of blood. As soon as the animal is dead, they cut his flesh into thongs, like the reins of a bridle, and hang them, like festoons, upon the branches of trees, till they become perfectly dry, and then lay them by for their provision in the rainy season.

On one of these occasions, Mr. Bruce witnessed a remarkable instance of affection in a young elephant to its mother: "There now remained," says he, "but two elephants of those that had been discovered; which were a female with a

Affection of a young elephant.

calf. The Agageer would willingly have let these alone, as the teeth of the female are very small, and the young one is of no value whatever. But the hunters would not be limited in their sport. The people having observed the place of her retreat, she was very soon found, and as soon lamed by the Agageers; but when they came to wound her with their darts, as every one did in their turn, to our very great surprise, the young one, which had been suffered to escape unheeded, rushed out from the thicket, apparently in great anger, and ran upon the horses and men with all the violence it was master of. I was amazed and afflicted, at seeing the affection of the little animal in defending its wounded parent, heedless of its own life or safety. I therefore cried to them, for God's sake to spare the mother, but it was then too late; and the calf had made several rude attacks upon me, which I avoided without difficulty; but I am happy to this day, in the reflection that I did not strike it. At last, making one of its attacks upon another of the party, it hurt him a little on the leg; on which he thrust it through with his lance, as others did after, and it then fell dead before its wounded mother, whom it had so affectionately defended. It was about the size of an ass, but round, big-bellied, and heavily made: and was so furious and unruly, that it would easily have broken the leg of a man or a horse, could it have overtaken, and jostled against them properly."

It has been asserted, that the elephant's memory is so retentive, that when once he has been in bondage and afterwards escaped, it is utterly impracticable again to entrap him. But this opinion has proved erroneous; as will appear from the following instances recorded in the *Philosophical Transactions* for 1799.

“ A female elephant was first taken in the year 1765, by Rajah *Kishun Maunick*, who, six months afterward gave her to *Abdoor Rezah*, a man of some rank in the district. In 1767, the rajah sent a force against this *Abdoor Rezah*, for some refractory conduct, who, in his retreat to the hills, turned the afore-mentioned animal into the woods, after having used her above two years as a riding elephant. She was afterwards retaken; but broke loose in a stormy night, and again escaped. In the year 1782, above ten years after her second escape, she was driven by the elephant-hunters belonging to Mr. Leeke, of Longford-hall, in Shropshire, into the inclosure in which the elephants are secured; and the day following, when Mr. Leeke went to see the herd that had been taken, this elephant was pointed out to him by the hunters, who well recollected her. They frequently called to her by name; to which she seemed to pay some attention, by immediately looking towards them when it was repeated; nor did she appear like the wild elephants, who were constantly running about the

Account of elephants that have been retaken.

inclosure in a rage, but seemed perfectly reconciled to her situation.

“ For the space of eighteen days, she never went near enough the outlet to be secured; from a recollection perhaps of what she had twice before suffered. Mr. Leeke, at length, went himself, when there were only herself, another female, and eight young ones remaining in the inclosure. After the other female had been secured, by means of the female elephants sent in for that purpose, the hunters were ordered to call her by name. She immediately came to the side of the ditch, within the inclosure; on which some of the drivers were desired to carry in a plantain tree, the leaves of which she not only took from their hands with her trunk, but opened her mouth for them to put a leaf into it, which they did, at the same time stroking and caressing her. One of the trained elephants was now ordered to be brought to her, and the driver to take her by the ear and order her to lie down. At first she retired to a distance, apparently angry; but, when the drivers called to her, she came immediately and allowed them to stroke and caress her as before; and in a few minutes after, permitted the trained elephants to be familiar. A driver from one of these fastened a rope round her body, and instantly jumped on her back, which, at the moment, she did not like, but was soon reconciled to it. A small cord was then put round her neck, for the driver to put

Account of elephants that have been retaken.

his feet in ; who seated himself in the usual manner, and drove her about the inclosure. After this he ordered her to lie down, which she instantly did ; nor did she rise till she was desired. He fed her from his seat, gave her his stick to hold, which she took with her trunk, and put into her mouth, kept, and then returned it as she was directed, and as she had formerly been accustomed to do. In short, she was so obedient, that had there been more wild elephants in the inclosure, she would have been useful in securing them.

“ In June 1787, a male elephant, taken the year before, was travelling, in company with some others, towards Chittigong, laden with baggage ; and having come upon a tiger's track, which elephants readily discover by the scent, he took fright and ran off to the woods, in spite of all the efforts of his driver. On entering the wood, the driver saved himself by springing from the animal and clinging to the branch of a tree under which he was passing. When the elephant had got rid of his driver, he soon contrived to shake off his load. As soon as he ran away, a trained female was dispatched after him, but could not get up in time to prevent his escape.

“ About eighteen months afterwards, when a herd of elephants had been taken, and had remained several days in the inclosure, till they were enticed into the outlet, there tied, and led

Female elephant at Exeter 'Change.

out in the usual manner, one of the drivers, viewing a male elephant very attentively, declared he resembled the one which had run away. This excited the curiosity of every one to go and look at him; but, when any person came near, the animal struck at him with his trunk, and in every respect appeared as wild and outrageous as any of the other elephants. An old hunter at length coming up and examining him, declared that he was the animal that had made his escape.

“ Confident of this, he boldly rode up to him on a tame elephant, and ordered him to lie down, at the same time pulling him by the ear. The creature seemed taken by surprise, and instantly obeyed the word of command, uttering at the same time a shrill squeak through his trunk, as he had formerly been known to do; by which he was instantly recognized by every person acquainted with this peculiarity.”

There is at present (1806) in the menagerie at Exeter 'Change, a female elephant, bred tame at Calcutta, and brought to England in 1796, by the Hon. Hugh Lindsey. She is a very fine animal, being nine feet in height, about twenty in girth, and weighing two tons five hundred pounds. She is remarkably tame, and particularly fond of ladies and children.

On visiting the menagerie, a few months ago, I was much gratified with the sagacity, and truly curious performances of this quadruped. The

Performances of an elephant at Exeter 'Change.

keeper having demanded how many persons were come to see her? she replied by *two* strong exhalations from her trunk, which she held nearly perpendicular to the ground; and when asked how many candles were in the room? (it being night) she repeated those exhalations *six* times. I now thought she had mistaken the number; but on examination, I perceived that each of two lanterns contained three lights. She next bolted and unbolted a pair of folding doors, and the hatch of her own apartment, with the utmost readiness and dexterity; and knelt down at the word of command, to show how she might be loaded.

These performances, however, were far surpassed by another, which seemed to require even *thought* and human ingenuity. The keeper having laid a shilling on the floor, near the partition, and *beyond the reach* of her trunk, desired her to take it up and give it to me: when to my astonishment, having curved her trunk and apparently measured the distance, she blew strongly and repeatedly in such a curious direction that every blast drove the shilling from the wall towards her, till at length it came within reach. She then put it into my hand, and on my returning it she deposited it in the breeches pocket of her keeper.

After these demonstrations of sagacity and obedience, a pail of water was brought into the room, which she drew up in her trunk at three

Performances of an elephant at Exeter 'Change.

draughts, and the noise it made when emptied into her mouth was exactly that of pouring water or any other liquid from one vessel into another. On being asked if she chose any more? she signified her assent, and drank as much and in the same manner as before. She then, without bidding, took up the pail by the handle, and returned it to the keeper, with a polite inclination of the head.

I am informed, that this animal's daily allowance of food consists of one truss of hay, one do. of straw, a bushel of barley-meal and bran made into a mash, about thirty pounds of potatoes, and six pails of water.

THE RHINOCEROS.

NEXT to the elephant, this animal claims pre-eminence in the scale of creation, on account of its enormous strength, and the magnitude of its body. Its length, from the tip of the nose to the insertion of the tail, is usually twelve feet; its height varies from five to seven feet, and its circumference is nearly equal to its length.

Its nose is armed with a hard and very solid horn, sometimes above three feet in length, and eighteen inches in circumference at the base, with which it is able to defend itself against the attacks of every ferocious animal.

This weapon is pointed so as to inflict the se-

General description—Disposition.

verest wounds, and so disposed as to be managed with the greatest advantage: for while the elephant, the bear, and the buffalo are obliged to strike transversely with their weapons, the rhinoceros employs all his strength with every blow. The tiger, therefore, notwithstanding its extreme ferocity, seldom ventures to attack this animal; as he cannot do it without danger of having his bowels torn out.

The body and limbs of the rhinoceros are defended by a skin so hard as to be impenetrable by either a knife or spear. This is disposed about the neck into large plaits or folds; a fold of the same kind passes from the shoulders to the fore legs; and another from the hind part of the back to the thighs. It is of a blackish colour; naked, rough, and covered with a kind of galls or tubercles. It is said, that even to shoot a full-grown rhinoceros, it is necessary to make use of iron bullets, those of lead having been known to flatten against the skin. Between the folds and under the belly, however, the skin is soft, and of a light rose colour.

The upper lip in this animal seems to answer in some measure the same purpose as the trunk of the elephant. It protrudes over the lower one in the form of a lengthened tip; and, being very pliable, is used in catching hold of the shoots of vegetables, &c. and delivering them into its mouth.

The disposition of the rhinoceros is generally quiet and inoffensive; but when attacked or pro-

voked, he becomes furious and dangerous; and is even sometimes subject to paroxysms of fury, which nothing can assuage.

In the year 1743, Dr. Parsons published an account of a rhinoceros that was brought from Bengal into Europe. He was only two years old, and the expence of his food and journey amounted to near 1000*l.* sterling. He had every day, at three meals, seven pounds of rice, mixed with three pounds of sugar; besides hay and green plants: he also drank large quantities of water. In his disposition he was very peaceable, readily suffering all parts of his body to be touched. But when hungry, or irritated, he became mischievous, and nothing would appease him but food. When angry, he would jump up against the walls of his apartment with great violence, and make repeated efforts to escape; uttering a peculiar cry, somewhat between the grunting of a hog and the bellowing of a calf. He was not at this time taller than a young cow.

A rhinoceros, brought from Atcham, and exhibited in 1748, at Paris, was very gentle, and even caressing; he was fed principally on hay and corn, and appeared particularly fond of sharp or prickly plants, and the thorny branches of trees. The attendants frequently gave him branches that had very sharp and strong thorns on them; but he bent and broke them in his mouth without seeming in the least incommoded. Sometimes, indeed, they drew blood from his

Acute sense of hearing—General habits.

mouth and tongue, "but that," says our author, "might only serve to give a poignant relish to the animal's palate, and might answer the same grateful ends in seasoning his banquet, that spices do in heightening ours."

The eyes of the rhinoceros are small, and so situated that he can only see what is nearly in a direct line before him. But, as an equivalent for this defect, Dr. Parsons remarks, that this animal has a most acute and attentive ear. He will listen with a deep and long-continued attention to any kind of noise; and although he be eating, or lying down, he will raise his head, and listen till the noise ceases.

Notwithstanding the clumsy and unwieldy appearance of this quadruped, he is said to run with great swiftness, and from his strength and the impenetrability of his covering, he is capable of rushing with resistless violence through woods and obstacles of every kind; the smaller trees bending like twigs as he passes them. In his general habits and manner of feeding he resembles the elephant: residing in cool sequestered spots, near waters, and in shady woods. But he imitates the hog in occasionally wallowing in the mire.

In some parts of Asia, these animals are frequently tamed, and carried into the field of battle to strike terror into their enemies. They are, however, in general so unmanageable, that they injure the cause they are designed to serve, and

Medicinal virtues attributed to the rhinoceros.

in their fury it is not uncommon for them to turn on their masters.

The flesh, hoofs, teeth, and even the dung, are used medicinally by the Asiatics. The horn, when cut through the middle, is said to exhibit on each side, the rude figure of a man; the outlines being marked by small white strokes. Many of the Indian princes drink out of cups made of this horn; under the idea, that when these hold any poisonous draught, the liquor will ferment till it runs over the top. Goblets made of the horns of the young, are esteemed the most valuable. Professor Thunberg, when at the Cape, tried them, both wrought into goblets and unwrought, both old and young horns, with several sorts of poison, but he did not observe the least motion or effervescence; when, however, a solution of corrosive sublimate was poured into one of them, there arose a few bubbles, which were produced by the air that had been inclosed in the pores of the horn, and was now disengaged from it.

The only two animals of this species that have been brought into England during a considerable number of years, were both purchased for the exhibition rooms at Exeter 'Change. One of them came from Laknaor, in the East Indies, and was brought over in the Melville Castle, East Indiaman, in the year 1790, as a present to Mr. Dundas. But this gentleman, not wishing to have the trouble of keeping him, gave the animal

Manners and death of a tame rhinoceros.

away; and shortly afterwards he was purchased by Mr. Pidcock of Exeter 'Change.

He exhibited no symptoms of ferocity, but would obey the orders of his keeper, to walk about the room, and exhibit himself; and would even suffer himself to be patted on the back or sides by the numerous spectators who came to visit him. His daily allowance of food was twenty-eight pounds of clover, besides the same weight of ship biscuit, a prodigious quantity of greens, and from ten to fifteen pails of water which were given at five pails a time. His food was invariably seized in his long and projecting upper-lip, and by it conveyed into the mouth. He was very fond of sweet wines, of which he would often drink three or four bottles in the course of a few hours. His voice was somewhat like the bleating of a calf. It was most commonly exerted when he observed any person with fruit or other favourite food in his hand, and was probably indicative of his anxiety to have it given him.

In the month of October, 1792, as this animal was one day rising up suddenly, he unfortunately slipped the joint of one of his fore-legs. This accident occasioned an inflammation that about nine months afterwards terminated in his death. He died in a caravan at Corsham near Portsmouth. But on the carriage arriving at the latter place, the stench arising from the body was so offensive that the mayor was under the neces-

Disinterring a rhinoceros.

sity of ordering it to be immediately buried. This was accordingly done, on South Sea Common. But it was privately dug up about a fortnight afterwards, for the purpose of preserving its skin, and some of the most valuable of the bones. The persons present declared, that the stench was so powerful, that it was plainly perceptible at the distance of more than half a mile; and it was with the greatest difficulty they could proceed in their operations. The skin of this animal is now stuffed, and deposited in one of the exhibition rooms.

The other rhinoceros that was at Exeter 'Change was considerably smaller than this. It was brought over about the year 1799, and lived not more than twelve months afterwards. Mr. Pidcock sold it to an agent of the emperor of Germany; but it died in a stable-yard in Drury-Lane, about two months afterwards.

DOUBLE-HORNED RHINOCEROS.

THIS species of the rhinoceros differs from the last in the appearance of its skin; which, instead of vast and regularly marked folds, resembling armour, has merely a slight wrinkle across the shoulders and on the hinder parts, with a few fainter wrinkles on the sides; so that, in comparison with the common rhinoceros, it appears almost smooth. The principal distinction, how-

ever consists in the nose being furnished with two horns, one of which is smaller than the other, and situated above it. These horns are said to be loose when the animal is in a quiet state, but when he is angry, they become firm and immoveable.

Le Vaillant asserts, that when these animals are at rest, they always place themselves in the direction of the wind, with their noses towards it, in order to discover by their smell the approach of any enemies. When irritated they tear up the ground furiously with their horn; throwing the earth and stones to a vast distance, over their heads.

Mr. Bruce's account of the manners of these animals is too interesting to be omitted in a work of this description: "Besides the trees capable of most resistance," says this traveller, "there are, in the vast forests within the rains, trees of a softer consistence, and of a very succulent quality, which seem to be destined for the principal food of this animal. For the purpose of gaining the highest branches of these, his upper lip is capable of being lengthened out so as to increase his power of laying hold with it, in the same manner as the elephant does with his trunk. With this lip, and the assistance of his tongue, he pulls down the upper branches, which have most leaves, and these he devours first. Having stripped the tree of its branches, he does not immediately abandon it; but, placing his snout as

low in the trunk as he finds his horns will enter, he rips up the body of the tree, and reduces it to thin pieces like so many laths; and when he has thus prepared it, he embraces as much of it as he can in his monstrous jaws, and twists it round with as much ease as an ox would do a root of celery, or any small plant.

“ When pursued, and in fear, he possesses an astonishing degree of swiftness, considering his size, the apparent unwieldiness of his body, his great weight before, and the shortness of his legs. He has a kind of trot, which, after a few minutes, increases in a great proportion, and takes in a considerable distance; but this is to be understood with a degree of moderation. It is not true that in a plain he beats the horse in swiftness. I have passed him with ease, and seen many, worse mounted, do the same; and though it is certainly true that a horse can very seldom come up with him, this is owing to his cunning, and not to his swiftness. He makes constantly from wood to wood, and forces himself into the thickest parts of them. The trees that are dead or dry, are broken down, as with a cannon shot, and fall behind him and on his side in all directions. Others that are more pliable, greener, or fuller of sap, are bent back by his weight, and the velocity of his motions. And after he has passed, restoring themselves like a green branch to their natural position, they often sweep the incautious pursuer and his horse from the ground,

Bravery in self defence.

and dash them in pieces against the surrounding trees.

“ The eyes of the rhinoceros are very small; he seldom turns his head, and therefore sees nothing but what is before him. To this he owes his death, and never escapes if there is so much plain as to enable the horse to get before him. His pride and fury then make him lay aside all thoughts of escaping, but by victory over his enemy. He stands for a moment at bay: then, at a start, runs straight forward at the horse, like the wild boar, which, in his manner of action, he very much resembles. The horse, however, easily avoids him by turning short to one side; and this is the fatal instant: the naked man, with the sword, drops from behind the principal horseman, and, unseen by the rhinoceros, who is seeking his enemy, the horse, he gives him a stroke across the tendon of the heel, which renders him incapable of further flight or resistance.

“ In speaking of the great quantity of food necessary to support this enormous mass, we must likewise consider the vast quantity of water which he needs. No country but that of Shangalla, which he possesses, deluged with six months rain, and full of large and deep basons, made in the living rock, and shaded by dark woods from evaporation, or watered by large and deep rivers which never fall low or to a state of dryness, can supply the vast draughts of this monstrous crea-

ture: but it is not for drinking alone that he frequents wet and marshy places: large, fierce, and strong as he is, he must submit to prepare himself against the weakest of his adversaries. The great consumption he constantly makes of food and water, necessarily confines him to certain limited spaces; for it is not every place that can maintain him; he cannot emigrate or seek his defence among the sands of Arabia."

The double-horned rhinoceros has a formidable adversary in a fly, bred in the black earth of the marshes; and this insect persecutes him so unremittingly, that it must eventually subdue him, were it not for a stratagem which he practises for his preservation. In the night when the fly is at rest, the rhinoceros chuses a convenient place, and there rolling in the mud, clothes himself with a kind of case, which defends him against his adversary the following day. The wrinkles and plaits of his skin serve to keep this plaster firm upon him, all but about his hips, shoulders, and legs, where it cracks and falls off, by motion, and leaves him exposed in those parts. The itching and pain which follow, occasion him to rub himself in those parts against the roughest trees; and this is probably one cause of the numerous pustules or tubercles that are perceivable upon his skin.

The pleasure he receives from this employment, and the darkness of the night, deprive him of his usual vigilance and attention; and the

Method of killing the rhinoceros.

noise he makes is heard at so considerable a distance, that the hunters, guided by this sound, steal secretly upon him; and while lying on the ground, wound him with their javelins in the belly, where the wound is mortal.

The assertion that the skin of this rhinoceros is hard or impenetrable like a board, is very incorrect. In his wild state he is slain by javelins thrown from the hand, some of which enter his body to a great depth. A musket-shot will go through him, unless interrupted by a bone; and the Abyssinians kill him with the clumsiest arrows that ever were formed, and cut him to pieces afterwards with the most wretched knives.

Of the strength of the rhinoceros, even after being severely wounded, some idea may be formed from Mr. Bruce's account of the hunting of this animal in Abyssinia: "We were on horseback," says our author, "by the dawn of day, in search of the rhinoceros, many of which we had heard making a very deep groan and cry as the morning approached; several of the Agageers then joined us: and after we had searched about an hour in the very thickest part of the wood, one of them rushed out with great violence, crossing the plain towards a wood of canes about two miles distant. But though he trotted with surprising speed, considering his bulk, he was, in a very little time, transfixed with thirty or forty javelins; which so confounded him, that he left his purpose of going to the wood, and

ran into a deep hole, ditch, or ravine, without outlet, breaking above a dozen of the javelins as he entered. Here we thought he was caught as in a trap, for he had scarcely room to turn; when a servant, who had a gun, standing directly over him, fired at his head, and the animal fell immediately, to all appearance dead. All those on foot now jumped in with their knives to cut him up; but they had scarcely begun, when the animal recovered so far as to rise upon his knees: happy then was the man that escaped first; and had not one of the Agageers, who was himself engaged in the ravine, cut the sinew of the hind leg as he was retreating, there would have been a very sorrowful account of the foot-hunters that day.

“ After having dispatched him, I was curious to see what wound the shot had given, which had operated so violently upon so huge an animal; and I doubted not it was in the brain. But it had struck no where but upon the point of the foremost horn, of which it had carried off above an inch: and this occasioned a concussion that had stunned him for a minute; till the bleeding had recovered him.”

Mr. Sparman informs us, that, having opened one of these animals, he found the stomach to be four feet in length and two in diameter, to which was annexed a tube or canal, twenty-eight feet long, and six inches diameter; the heart was eighteen inches in length, and the kidneys the same in

Description of the hippopotamus.

breadth : the liver, when measured from right to left, was three feet and a half in breadth, and about thirty inches deep, as it hangs in the animal's body when in a standing position. The cavity in the skull, which contained the brains was, however, but small; being only six inches long and four deep.

The Hottentots ascribe many medicinal virtues to the dried blood of the rhinoceros, and some of them appear remarkably fond of its flesh, though it is hard and full of sinews.

THE HIPPOPOTAMUS.

THIS animal, when full-grown, is equal, or even sometimes superior in size to the rhinoceros : being sometimes found to measure nearly eleven feet in length, and nine in circumference. Its form is very uncouth, the body being extremely large, round, and clumsy; the legs very short and thick; the head large; the mouth prodigiously wide, and disproportionable; the eyes and ears small; and the tail about a foot long, taper, and sparingly scattered with hair. The whole animal is covered with short hair, thinly set, and is of a brownish colour. The hide, which bears some resemblance to that of a hog, is in some parts two inches thick, and sufficiently heavy to load a camel.

From the unwieldiness of his body and the

shortness of his legs, this quadruped is not able, according to Buffon, to move fast upon land, and is then extremely timid. When pursued he takes to the water, plunges in, sinks to the bottom, and is seen walking there at ease; he cannot, however, continue there long without rising to the surface. In the day-time he is so much afraid of being discovered, that, when he inhales fresh air, the place is hardly perceptible, for he scarcely ventures to put even his nose out of the water.

The hippopotamus when wounded, will rise and attack boats or canoes with great fury, and sometimes sink them by biting large pieces out of their sides. In shallow rivers, he makes deep holes in the bottom, in order to conceal his enormous bulk. When he quits the water he usually puts out half of his body at once, and smells and looks around; but sometimes rushes out with great impetuosity. During the night he leaves the rivers in order to feed on sugar-canes, rushes, millet, rice, &c. consuming great quantities, and trampling down every thing in his way.

The Egyptians have a singular method of freeing themselves from this destructive animal. They lay a large quantity of peas in the places that he chiefly frequents, and when the creature comes ashore, he begins eating voraciously, till the food occasion an insupportable thirst. He then rushes into the water, and drinks so copiously that the peas in his stomach, being fully

Mode of taking the hippopotamus.

saturated, swell so much as very soon afterwards to kill him!

“The hippopotamus,” says Dr. Sparrman, “is not so quick in its pace on land as the generality of the larger quadrupeds, though, perhaps, it is not so slow and heavy as M. de Buffon describes it to be; for both the Hottentots and Colonists consider it very dangerous to meet a hippopotamus out of the water; especially as, according to report, they had had a recent instance of one of these animals, having for several hours pursued a Hottentot, who found it very difficult to make his escape.”

Among the Caffres in the south of Africa, this animal is sometimes taken in pits made in the paths that lead to his haunts. But his gait, when undisturbed, is generally so slow and cautious, that he often smells out the snare, and avoids it. The most certain method is to watch him at night, behind a bush close to his path; and, as he passes, to wound him in the tendons of the knee-joint, by which he is immediately lamed and rendered unable to escape the numerous hunters that afterwards attack him.

A person of respectability at the Cape of Good Hope informed Professor Thunberg, that as he and a party were on a hunting expedition, they observed a female hippopotamus come from one of the rivers, and retire to a little distance from its bank, in order to calve. They lay still in the bushes till the calf and its mother made their ap-

pearance, when one of them fired, and shot the latter dead on the spot. The Hottentots, who imagined that after this they could seize the calf alive, immediately ran from their hiding-place, but though only just brought into the world, the young animal got out of their hands, and made the best of its way to the river, where, plunging in, it got safely off. This, as the learned Professor observes, is a singular instance of pure instinct; for the creature unhesitatingly ran to the river, as its proper place of security, without having previously received any instructions from the actions of its parent.

The flesh of the hippopotamus affords a favourite repast to the Hottentots, who are very fond of it, either roasted or boiled. The gelatinous part of the feet is spoken of by Le Vaillant as peculiarly delicious; and the tongue, when dried, is considered at the Cape, as a rare and excellent dish. The skin is cut into thongs for whips, which, for softness and pliability, are preferred by the Africans to those made of the hide of the rhinoceros; and the tusks, from their always preserving their original purity, are reckoned superior to ivory.

These animals appear capable of being tamed; for Belon asserts, that he has seen one so gentle as to be let loose out of a stable and led by its keeper, without attempting to injure any person. They inhabit the rivers of Africa, from

Description of the tapiir.

Berg River to the Niger, several miles north of the Cape of Good Hope. They formerly abounded in the rivers nearer the Cape, but are now almost extirpated there.

THE LONG-NOSED TAPIIR

SEEMS to be the hippopotamus of the new world, and has been sometimes mistaken for that quadruped. It is about the size of a small cow, with a body formed like that of a hog, and its hide of a dusky brown colour. Its nose is long and slender, and extends far beyond the lower jaw, forming a sort of proboscis, which it can contract or extend at pleasure. Its ears are small and erect; its legs short and thick; and its tail very small.

The disposition of this animal is perfectly mild and inoffensive, and it appears to possess a considerable degree of timidity, as it invariably flies from every appearance of danger. It is a solitary animal; sleeping during the day, and going out at night in quest of its food, which consists of grass, sugar-canes, fruits, &c. When disturbed it takes to the water, where it swims with great facility, or plunges to the bottom, and, like the hippopotamus, walks there as on dry ground.

Where found—Utility of the skin.

These animals are chiefly found in the woods and rivers on the eastern side of South America, from the Isthmus of Darien to the river of Amazons. The Indians make bucklers of the skin, which is very thick, and so hard, when dried, as to resist the impression of an arrow.



CHAP. V.

"There roam the ape, the monkey, and baboon,
Fearless and fierce amid their native woods."

THOMAS.

THE OURANG OUTANG.

THIS animal is the largest of the ape species, and from the near resemblance of its external appearance to the human form, it has sometimes obtained the appellation of "Wild Man of the Woods." It has, however, a flatter nose, a more oblique forehead, and the chin without any elevation at the base. The eyes are likewise too near each other, and the distance betwixt the nose and mouth much too great. A variety of essential differences have also been discovered in the internal conformation; which sufficiently evince that notwithstanding the apparent affinity to man, the interval which separates the two species is immense: the resemblance in figure and organization, and the imitative movements which seem to result from these similarities neither

make him approach the nature of man, nor elevate him above that of the brute.

The specimens hitherto brought into Europe, have seldom exceeded three feet in height; but the largest are said to be about six feet high, very active, and of such prodigious strength, that one of them is able with ease to overpower the most muscular man. They are also exceedingly swift, and cannot be taken without much difficulty. Their colour is generally a kind of dusky brown; their feet are bare, and their ears, hands, and feet, nearly resemble those of mankind.

These animals inhabit the woods in the interior of Africa, and the island of Borneo. They feed on fruits, and, when they happen to approach the shore, will eat fish or crabs. Andrew Battell, a Portuguese traveller, who resided in Angola near eighteen years, asserts, that they were very common in the woods of that country, where they sometimes attained a gigantic stature. Their bodies were covered, but not very thickly, with a dun-coloured hair; and their legs were without calves. They always walked upright, and generally, when on the ground, carried their hands clasped on the hinder part of their neck. They slept in the trees, amongst which they built shelters from the rain. Their food consisted of fruit and nuts, and in no instance were they known to be carnivorous.

Jobson informs us, that among the woods on

Boldness in their native woods.

the banks of the river Gambia, in Africa, these animals sometimes assemble in herds of three or four thousand, marching in a rank, the larger ones acting as leaders. On these occasions they are excessively impudent and mischievous; and our author says, that whenever his party, in sailing along the river, passed their stations, they mounted the trees and gazed upon the men; sometimes they would shake the trees with their hands, which they did with vast force, at the same time chattering and making a loud noise. At night when the party were at anchor, the animals often took their stations on the rocks and heights above. When the men were on shore and met any of them, the great ones generally came forward and seemed to grin in their faces, but they always fled with precipitance when an attack was made. One of them was killed from the boat with a gun, but before the boat could be got ashore the others had carried it off. Their habitations were found in some of the woods, composed of plants and the branches of trees, so thickly interwoven as to protect them from the heat of the sun.

The ourang outangs exhibit little or none of that frolic and vivacity which are the distinguishing characteristics of the monkey; but all their actions are more deliberate and sedate. They are able to drive off the elephant, with a piece of wood in their hands, or only with their fists; they have sometimes been known to throw stones at those

who have offended them; and if a negro be unfortunately discovered by them in the woods, they generally attack and kill him. Bosman informs us, that behind the English fort at Wimba, on the coast of Guinea, several of these animals fell upon two of the company's slaves, overpowered them, and were about to poke out their eyes with some sticks, when a party of negroes fortunately arrived in time for their rescue. There have, also, been instances of their stealing the negresses, and carrying them off into the woods. A negro boy was carried off by an ourang outang, and lived with them upwards of a year; on his return he described many of them as being as tall and more bulky than a man, and he declared that they did not attempt to injure him in any respect. The young are said to hang on the belly of the dam, with their hands fast clasped about her; and whenever the females are killed these will always suffer themselves to be taken.

The manners of these quadrupeds, when in confinement, are gentle and harmless, perfectly devoid of that disgusting ferocity so conspicuous in many of the larger baboons and monkeys. They are also very docile, and may be taught to perform a variety of entertaining actions.

Dr. Tyson, who gave a very minute description of a young ourang outang exhibited in London, about a century ago, assures us, that, in many of its actions, it seemed to display a very high degree of sagacity, and its disposition was

Manners of the ourang outang in confinement.

exceedingly mild and gentle. Those that he knew on board the vessel that brought him over he would embrace with the greatest tenderness; and, although there were monkeys aboard, yet it was observed, he never would associate with any of them, but seemed to hold them in contempt, and always avoided their company. He used sometimes to wear clothes, and at length became very fond of them. He would even put part of them on without help, and carry the remainder in his hands to some of the ship's company for assistance. He would lie in bed, place his head on a pillow, and pull up the bed-clothes to keep himself warm, exactly as a man.

Of the ourang outang brought into Holland in the year 1776, M. Vosmaer has given the following account: "This animal was a female: its height was about two Rhenish feet and a half. It showed no symptoms of fierceness or malignity, and was even of a somewhat melancholy appearance. It was fond of company, and evinced such a predilection for those who took daily care of it, that when they retired, it would throw itself on the ground, as if in despair, uttering lamentable cries, and tearing in pieces the linen within its reach. Its keeper, having sometimes been accustomed to sit near it on the ground, it frequently took the hay of its bed, and laid it by its side, as if inviting him to be seated near. Its usual manner of walking was on all fours, like other apes; but it could also

walk erect. One morning it got unchained, and we beheld it with wonderful agility ascend the beams and rafters of the building; it was not without some pains that it was retaken, and we then remarked an extraordinary muscular power in the animal; the assistance of four men being necessary in order to hold it in such a manner as to be properly secured. During its state of liberty it had, amongst other things, taken the cork from a bottle of Malaga wine, which it drank to the last drop, and set the bottle in its place again. It ate almost every thing that was given to it; but its chief food was bread, roots, fruits, aromatic plants, and the leaves and roots of parsley. It also ate meat, both boiled and roasted, as well as fish. It was not observed to hunt for insects, like other monkeys; was fond of eggs, which it broke with its teeth, and sucked completely; but fish and roasted meat seemed its favourite food. It had been taught to eat with a spoon and a fork. When presented with strawberries on a plate, it was extremely pleasant to see the animal take them up, one by one, with a fork, and put them into its mouth, holding, at the same time, the plate in the other hand. Its common beverage was water, but it willingly drank all sorts of wine, and particularly Malaga. After drinking, it wiped its lips; and after eating, if presented with a tooth-pick, would use it in a proper manner. On ship-board it ran freely about the vessel, played with the

Imitative manners.

sailors, and would go, like them, into the kitchen for its mess. At the approach of night it lay down to sleep, and prepared its bed, by shaking well the hay, on which it slept, and putting it in proper order; and, lastly, covering itself warm with the coverlet. One day, seeing the padlock of its chain opened with a key, and shut again, it seized a little bit of stick, and put it into the key-hole, turning it about in all directions to ascertain whether the padlock would open or not. On its first arrival in Holland, it had but very little hair, except on its back and arms: but on the approach of winter it became well-covered; the hair on the back being three inches in length. The whole animal then appeared of a chesnut colour; the skin of the face, &c. was of a mouse colour, but about the eyes and round the mouth of a dull flesh colour." It lived about seven months in Holland, and, after its death, was deposited in the museum of the prince of Orange.

The Comte de Buffon saw one of these animals which always walked on two feet, even when carrying heavy burthens. "His aspect," says that naturalist, "was melancholy, his deportment grave, his movements regular, his disposition gentle, and very different from that of other apes. Unlike the baboon or the monkey, who are fond of mischief, and only obedient through fear, a look kept him in awe; while the other animals could





MONEY.

Publ. 1806. By James Goulet, London.

Imitative manners.

not be brought to obey without blows. He would present his hand to conduct the people who came to visit him, and walk as gravely along with them as if he had formed a part of the company. I have seen him sit down at table, when he would unfold his towel, wipe his lips, use a spoon or a fork to carry the victuals to his mouth, pour his liquor into a glass, and make it touch that of a person who drank along with him. When invited to take tea, he would bring a cup and saucer, place them on the table, put in sugar, pour out the tea, and allow it to cool before he drank it. All this I have seen him perform without any other instigation than the signs or the command of his master, and often even of his own accord.

He was perfectly gentle and inoffensive; and appeared rather to solicit caresses than inclined to offer injuries. He continued at Paris one summer, and died in London the following winter.

One of these animals seen in the Straits of Molucca, is described as having manners very similar to those already mentioned. It walked erect, and used its hands and arms like a man; and indeed its actions were in general so nearly allied to those of mankind, and its passions so expressive and lively, that a dumb person could scarcely have rendered himself better understood. Its anger was signified by stamping with its foot on the ground. It had been taught to dance; and would sometimes cry like a child. While on

Ourang outangs employed as servants.

board the vessel it frequently ran up the rigging, and played a variety of antics aloft, to divert the company. It could leap with surprising agility from one rope to another, though fifteen or twenty feet asunder.

Mr. Hamilton, when in Java, saw one of these animals, which he describes as of a grave and melancholy deportment. He says, that it would light a fire and blow it with its mouth; and that it would even broil a fish, to eat with its boiled rice, in imitation of the persons who were about it. Pyrard asserts, that the animals of this species found in Sierra Leona, are strong and well formed, and so industrious, that, when properly trained and fed, they work like servants: that when ordered, they will pound any substance in a mortar; and are frequently sent to fetch water from the rivers in small pitchers, which they carry full on their heads; but when they arrive at the door of the dwelling, if these are not soon taken off they suffer them to fall, and when they perceive the pitcher overturned and broken they utter loud lamentations. Barbot says also, that they are frequently rendered useful to the Europeans on the coast of Guinea, by being taught to turn a spit, watch the roasting of meat, &c. which they perform with considerable dexterity.

M. de la Brosse purchased two of these animals, which would sit at table like men, and eat every kind of food without distinction. They would use a knife, fork, or spoon, to cut or lay

Manners of an ourang outang on ship-board.

hold of what was put on their plate; and readily drank wine and other liquors. When they wanted any thing, they easily made themselves understood by the cabin-boy; and when he refused to attend, they became enraged, seized him by the arm, bit, and threw him down. The male was seized with sickness, and was attended by the people as if he had been a human being. He was even bled twice in the right arm, and, whenever afterwards he found himself in the same condition, he held out his arm, as if he recollected formerly receiving benefit from that operation.

Two of these animals were sent from the forests of the Carnatic, by a coasting vessel, as a present to the governor of Bombay. They were scarcely two feet high, but walked erect, and had, very nearly, the human form. Their actions also were strongly imitative, and they seemed, by their constant melancholy to regret the loss of their liberty. The female was taken ill during the voyage, and died; and the male, after exhibiting every demonstration of grief, obstinately refused to eat, and lived only a few days.

Guat informs us, that he saw a very extraordinary female ape at Java. "She was very tall," says he, "and often walked on her hind feet. Except on the eye-brows, there was no hair on her face, which nearly resembled the grotesque female faces I had seen among the Hottentots at

Imitative manners—Mode of opening oysters.

the Cape. She made her bed very neatly every day, lay upon her side, and covered herself with the bed-clothes. She often bound her head up with a handkerchief, and it was amusing to see her thus hooded in bed. I could relate many other little circumstances which appeared to be extremely singular; but I by no means admired them so much as most other persons did, because, as I knew the design of bringing her to Europe to be exhibited as a show, I was inclined to think that she had been taught many of these tricks, which the people considered as natural to the animal. She died in our ship, about the latitude of the Cape of Good Hope."

Gemelli Carreri asserts, that when the fruits on the mountains are exhausted, these animals frequently descend to the sea coast, where they feed on various kinds of shell-fish, but particularly on a large species of oyster, which commonly lies open on the shore: But as they are fearful of putting in their paws, lest the oyster should close and crush them, they insert a pretty large stone within the shell, to prevent it from closing; and then drag out their prey and devour it at leisure.

THE BARBARY APE.

THIS animal, sometimes called the magot, is more sullen, vicious and untractable than the rest of the species. The head is large, and the face approaches nearer to that of a dog than of man. The body is covered with brownish hair, except on the belly, which inclines to yellow. When standing upon his hind legs, the animal is about three feet high; and when resting, he supports his body on two prominent callosities. The cheeks are furnished with pouches, which the creature generally fills with food before he begins to eat. It walks on four in preference to two legs; its manners are peculiarly gross; and when irritated or displeased it exhibits and grinds its teeth.

These animals are generally very mischievous, and are said to assemble in large troops on the open plains of India; when, if they see any of the women going to market, they immediately attack them, and take away their provisions. Tavernier, alluding to this species, asserts, that some of the Indians have a curious mode of amusing themselves at their expense. These people place five or six baskets of rice, forty or fifty yards asunder, in an open ground near their retreat, and by every basket put a number of stout cudgels: they then retire to some hiding-place, not far distant, to watch the result. The

apes, perceiving no person near the baskets, soon descend in great numbers from the trees, and run towards them. They grin at each other before they venture to approach; sometimes advancing, then retreating, as if reluctant to encounter. At length the females, which are more courageous than the males, especially those that have young ones, venture to approach the baskets, and as they are about to thrust their heads in to eat, the males on the one side advance to hinder them. Immediately the other party comes forward, and the feud being kindled on both sides, the combatants seize the cudgels, and a most severe engagement ensues, which always ends with the weakest being driven into the woods with broken heads and limbs. The victors then fall to in peace, and devour the reward of their labour.

The same traveller remarks, that as he was once travelling in the East Indies, in company with the English president, a great number of large apes were observed upon the trees around them. The president was so much amused, that he ordered his carriage to stop, and desired Tavernier to shoot one of them. The attendants, who were principally natives, and well acquainted with the manners of these animals, begged him to desist, lest those that escaped might do them some injury in revenge for the death of a companion. Being, however, still requested, he killed a female, which fell among the branches, letting

Instance of revenge—The pigmy ape.

her little ones, that clung to her neck, fall to the ground. In an instant all the remaining apes, to the number of sixty or upwards, descended in fury, and as many as could, leaped upon the president's coach, where they would soon have strangled him, had not the blinds been immediately closed, and the number of attendants so great, as, though not without difficulty, to drive them off. However, they continued to run after and tease the servants for at least three miles from the place where their companion was slain.

Buffon had a Barbary ape several years. In summer he says it delighted to be in the open air, and even in winter it was frequently kept in a room without fire. Though long in confinement it did not become at all civilized. When food was given to it, it always filled its pouches: and when about to sleep, loved to perch on an iron or wooden bar.

These animals are found in most parts of Africa, from Barbary to the Cape of Good Hope.

THE PIGMY APE.

THE pigmy ape generally walks erect on its hind legs; and is much smaller than the former; seldom exceeding eighteen inches in length. The face is flat, and the ears nearly resemble those of man. The general colours of the body are olive-brown

Robbing plantations.

above, and yellowish on the belly. It lives in woods and fields principally on fruits and insects.

These animals are generally of a mild disposition, and may be tamed without much difficulty. They will sip their drink from the palm of the hand, mimic the smiles and frowns of their master, and, as Linnæus says, imitate the forms of salutation used by the Caffres. They have retentive memories, and frequently recollect the persons of benefactors for many years. In their general manners they are sagacious and frolicsome; but when taken hold of in a wild state they bite furiously in self defence. In their native forests they associate in troops, and frequently attack gardens or plantations. On these occasions, one of the party always remains on the watch. If any one approach he utters a loud scream, when those on the ground immediately run up the trees; and if the alarm continue, and the country be pretty well wooded, they pursue their route, by leaping from tree to tree, all the way to the mountains. In this procedure the females are frequently burthened by three or four young ones, clinging round their necks and backs, yet, notwithstanding this incumbrance, they are able to leap to a considerable distance. The injury they do to the fruits and corn is incalculable: they gather them into heaps, and throw them on the ground in such quantities, that what they eat and carry off, is very trifling compared with the quantity they destroy.

It is said that they chiefly reside in caverns, and the natives adopt a singular mode of taking them alive. They place near their haunts vessels containing strong liquors, and the animals, assembling to enjoy the unexpected repast, become all inebriated, fall asleep together, and in this situation are easily secured. They inhabit most parts of Africa, the East Indies, and the island of Ceylon.

Pere Caubasson relates a laughable story of an ape which he brought up tame, and which became so attached, as to be desirous of accompanying him wherever he went. When he had to perform the service of his church, the animal was carefully shut up: one day, however, it effected its escape, and followed its master to church, where, silently mounting on the top of the sounding-board, it lay perfectly still till the sermon began. It then crept to the edge, and, overlooking the preacher, imitated all his gestures in so ludicrous a manner, that the whole congregation were unavoidably excited to laugh. The father, surprised and confounded at this ill-timed levity, reproved his audience for their inattention. This reproof failing in its effect, the preacher, in the warmth of his zeal, redoubled his actions and vociferations. These the ape so exactly imitated that all other considerations were swallowed up in the scene before them, and they burst out into a roar of laughter. At length, a friend of the preacher stepped up to him, and pointing out the

Apes worshipped in India.

cause of this improper conduct, it was with the utmost difficulty he could command a serious countenance, while he ordered the servants of the church to take the animal away.

In many parts of India, animals of the ape tribe are made objects of worship by the natives, and magnificent temples are erected in honour of them. Their numbers are almost infinite. They frequently come in troops into the cities, and enter the houses at all times with perfect freedom; in Calicut, however, the inhabitants keep them in a great measure out of their dwellings, but to effect this they are compelled to have all their windows latticed,

THE COMMON BABOON.

THIS animal frequently measures three or four feet in height, and in its upper parts is remarkably strong and muscular. When confined in a cage it will sometimes lay hold of the bars, and shake them so powerfully as to make the spectators tremble. Towards the middle of the body, it is like all the baboons, very slender. The general colour is a greyish brown; and the face, which is long, is of a tawny flesh-colour. The cheeks are furnished with pouches. The tail is very short, and round it to a considerable distance the posteriors are perfectly bare and callous.

The disposition of these animals is exceedingly ferocious; and their appearance is, at once, both grotesque and formidable. They generally go in troops, and are dangerous enemies, when collected in any number.

In some parts of India they frequently sally forth in astonishing numbers, to attack the villages, while the labourers are occupied in the rice harvest; and plunder the habitations of whatever provisions they can find. Fruits, corn, and roots, form their principal food, and in obtaining these they often commit the most violent outrages. Their great strength and the sharpness of their claws, render them formidable to dogs, who always overcome them with difficulty, except when excess in eating has rendered them heavy and inactive. When at liberty one of them will easily overpower two or three men, if they happen to be unprovided with weapons of defence.

The females seldom bring forth more than one young one each, which they carry in their arms: and they have never been known to produce in cold, or even temperate climates.

In a state of confinement these animals are generally savage and ill-natured. One that was exhibited at Edinburgh in the year 1779, invariably presented to the spectators the most menacing aspect, and even attempted to seize every person who came within the reach of his chain.

Predilection for eggs and cheese.

One that Mr. Pennant saw at Chester was of most tremendous strength, and excessively fierce. Its voice was a kind of roar, not unlike that of a lion, except that it was low and somewhat inward. It went on all fours, and never stood on its hind legs, unless forced by the keeper; but would frequently sit on its rump, in a crouching manner, and drop its arms across before its belly. It was a very beautiful animal, and appears to have been the same that Mr. Smellie saw at Edinburgh.

These baboons may be induced to eat meat, but not unless it is cooked. They are remarkably fond of eggs, and one of them has been seen to put eight into his cheek-pouches at once: taking them out singly, he broke them at the end, and deliberately swallowed their contents. The animal seen by Mr. Pennant seemed to have a strong predilection for cheese; and whenever any ears of wheat were given him, he dexterously picked out the grains one by one with his teeth, and ate them.

Dr. Goldsmith asserts, that he has seen one of them break a whole service of China, evidently by design, yet without appearing in the least conscious of having done amiss. And their capricious disposition frequently propels them to similar acts of mischief.

THE DOG-FACED BABOON.

THIS animal, when standing erect, is about five feet high. The head and face have a near resemblance to those of a dog. The hair is very long and shaggy as far as the waist, but short below. The face is naked, and the ears are pointed and almost concealed by the hair. Its disposition is ferocious and untameable, and its strength so great as to enable it without difficulty, to overcome a man.

In the hotter parts of Africa and Asia, these baboons associate in companies, and rob the plantations: they are so fierce and numerous, that the coffee-planters are compelled to have men continually on the watch to prevent their depredations. When any passengers go by, they are impudent enough to run up the trees, and shake the boughs at them with great fury, at the same time chattering very loud.

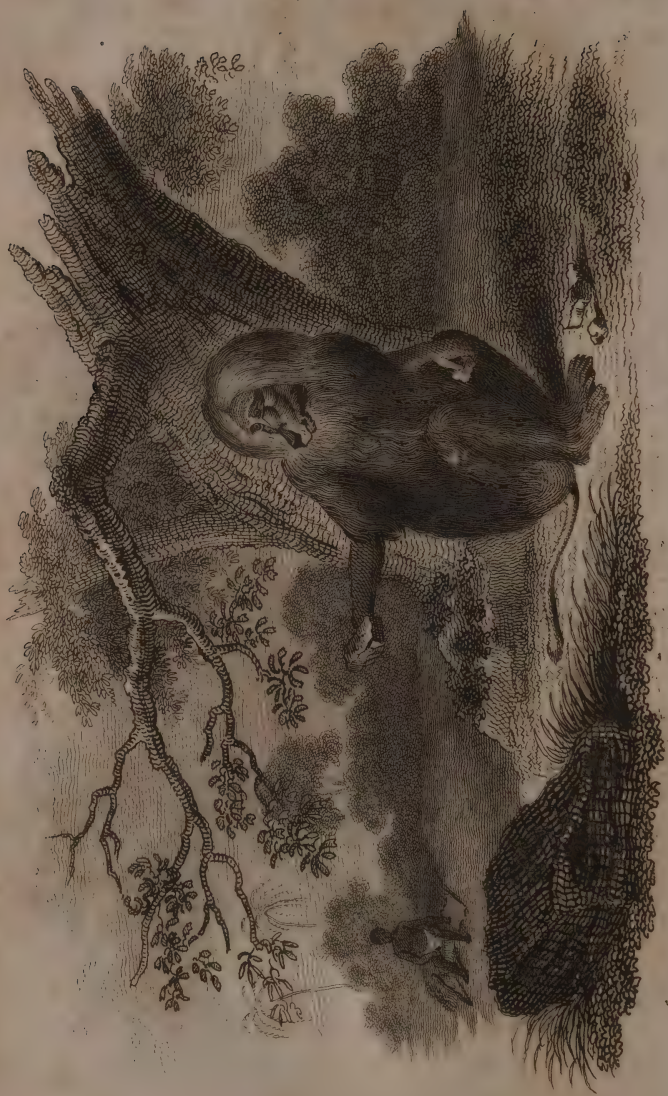
THE URSINE BABOON.

THE ursine baboon is rather smaller than the last species. It has a large head, with a high and prominent forehead, short ears, and a long nose. The hair on the body is of a dusky colour, and of such a length as to give the animal the appearance of a young bear.

In Southern Africa, and among the mountains at the Cape of Good Hope, these animals associate in troops; and when any person approaches their haunts, they set up a horrible cry for a minute or two, and then conceal themselves in their fastnesses, and keep a profound silence. They seldom descend to the plains, except for the purpose of robbing the gardens that lie near the foot of the mountains; and on those occasions they have the precaution to place centinels to prevent being surprised. They break the fruit into pieces, and cram it into their cheek-pouches, in order, afterwards, to eat it at leisure. The centinel, if he see a man, gives a loud yell, which lasts for about a minute; and the whole troop retreats with the utmost expedition, and in a most diverting manner, the young jumping on, and clinging to the backs of their parents. They also feed on several kinds of bulbous plants, which they dig up and peel with great address.

They are so numerous among the mountains of Africa, as sometimes to render it dangerous for travellers to pass them, as they not only roll, but frequently throw down large stones from the tops of the rocks. In these cases a gun is generally of great use, in driving them to such a distance, that the stones thus thrown may do no injury.

Kolben relates, that when these baboons discover a single person resting and regaling himself in the fields, if great care be not taken, they will



MONKEY.

Stealing a dinner.

cunningly steal up behind, and snatch away whatever they can lay hold of; then running to a little distance, will turn round, seat themselves on their posteriors, and with the most arch grimaces, devour it before the man's face. They frequently hold it out in their paws, as if to offer it back again, and use such ludicrous gestures, that, although the poor fellow loses his dinner, he seldom can refrain from laughing.

Mr. Lade has given a very accurate description of their manners. "We traversed a great mountain," says he, "in the neighbourhood of the Cape of Good Hope, and amused ourselves with hunting large apes, which are very numerous in that place. I can neither describe all the arts practised by these animals, nor the nimbleness and impudence with which they returned, after being pursued by us. Sometimes they would allow us to approach so near, that I was almost certain of seizing them. But when I made the attempt, they sprung at a single leap, ten paces from me, and mounted trees with equal agility, whence they looked at us with great indifference, and seemed to derive pleasure from our astonishment. Some of them were so large, that if our interpreter had not assured us they were neither ferocious nor dangerous, our number would not have appeared sufficient to protect us from their attacks. As it could serve no purpose to kill them we did not use our guns. But the captain levelled his piece at a very large one

Tame baboons.

that rested on the top of a tree, after having fatigued us a long time in pursuing him: this kind of menace, of which the animal, perhaps, recollected his having sometimes seen the consequences, terrified him to such a degree that he fell down motionless at our feet, and we had no difficulty in seizing him. But, when he recovered from his stupor, it required all our dexterity and efforts to keep him. We tied his paws together; but he bit so furiously, that we were under the necessity of binding our handkerchiefs over his head."

These animals are frequently taken young, and nourished with milk by the inhabitants of the Cape; and it is said, that they will become as watchful over their master's property, as the most valuable house-dog in Europe. They are generally kept fastened by means of a chain to a pole; and their agility in climbing, leaping, and dodging any one that offers to strike them is almost incredible. Though one of these animals was thus tied up, still it was impossible, at the distance of a few yards, to hit him with a stone. He would either catch it, like a ball, in his paw; or else he would avoid its blow in the most surprising and nimble manner. They are not naturally carnivorous; but will eat meat or fish that has been cooked.

Thunberg informs us, they are sometimes caught with dogs, but it is necessary to have a tolerable number: a single dog or two can sel-

General description.

dom catch one of them, for if the baboon can but get a dog by the hind feet, he will swing it round till it is perfectly giddy. They also bite violently, and by means of their immense teeth are able to defend themselves with the utmost obstinacy. When enraged by any person, even in a state of domestication, they attempt to lay hold of the ears; and they will sometimes bite one of them off as close as if it had been cut with a razor.

FOUR-FINGERED MONKEY.

THE four-fingered monkey is about eighteen inches in length from the muzzle to the rump, exclusive of the tail, which is nearly two feet long. These animals are bold and active, full of gambols and grimace; and of a mild and docile disposition. The colour is uniformly black, except the face, which is of a dark flesh colour. The animal has no thumbs on the fore paws, but in place of them it has small appendices or projections. It inhabits the forests of South America; and the female brings forth one or two young, which she carries on her back. One of them in a state of confinement lived on the most amicable terms with a squirrel that had been put to it as a companion, and obtained by its familiarity and caresses, the affection of all those who attended it. When the fore-paws are tied be-

Mischievous sagacity.

hind their back, these monkeys will walk or run on their hind feet for almost any length of time, with the same ease and facility as if this were their natural posture.

Notwithstanding their gentleness, they are not entirely devoid of that mischievous sagacity for which the whole tribe is remarkable. It is said, that, in their own country, when one of them is beaten, he will immediately climb, with the utmost agility, a lemon or an orange tree. If he be pursued, he will pick off the fruit, and throw it with singular dexterity at the head of his adversary; and he sometimes adopts more unpleasant modes of repulsion. On these occasions he assumes a thousand ridiculous attitudes, which afford considerable diversion to the spectators. They commonly subsist on roots, fruits, &c.: but, for want of better food, they will eat fish; which they are said to catch with their tails.

Like most others of the monkey tribe, when on predatory expeditions, they place centinels on the heights of the forest, to give timely warning of the approach of danger. Ulloa asserts, that, in their native forests, when they want to pass from top to top of lofty trees, too distant for a leap, they will form a chain, by hanging down linked to each other by their tails; and swing in this manner till the lowest catches hold of a bough of the next tree, whence he draws the rest up. They are also said to cross rivers, where the

banks are very steep, by the same expedient; and though this assertion is doubted by Stedman, it is confirmed by Dampier and Acosta.

Captain Stedman being among the woods of Surinam, and in want of fresh provisions, shot at two of these animals with the intention of making broth of them; but, he observes, the destruction of one of them was attended with such circumstances as almost ever after deterred him from going a monkey hunting.

“ Seeing me nearly on the bank of the river in the canoe,” says our author, “ the creature made a halt from skipping after his companions, and being perched on a branch that hung over the water, examined me with attention, and the strongest marks of curiosity; no doubt taking me for a giant of his own species: while he chattered prodigiously, and kept dancing and shaking the bough on which he rested with incredible strength and agility. At this time I laid my piece to my shoulder, and brought him down from the tree into the stream;---but may I never again be witness of such a scene! The miserable animal was not dead, but mortally wounded. I seized him by the tail, and taking him in both my hands, to end his torment, swung him round, and hit his head against the side of the canoe; but the poor creature still continued alive, and looking at me in the most affecting manner that can be conceived, I knew no other means of ending his murder, than to hold him under the water till he

was drowned, while my heart sickened on his account: for his dying little eyes still continued to follow me with seeming reproach, till their light gradually forsook them, and the wretched animal expired. I felt so much on this occasion, that I could neither taste of him nor his companion, when they were dressed, though I saw that they afforded to some others a delicious repast."

THE EGRET MONKEY.

THIS animal is about two feet in length, and somewhat of the colour of a wolf. His head is large and excessively ugly; his nose is depressed; his cheeks are wrinkled; his eye-brows prominent and bristly, and his lip cleft with a double fissure. On the top of the head is a pointed tuft of hair; and the feet are black. In its disposition the creature is mild and tractable; but it is so dirty and ugly, that when making its grimaces it can scarcely be viewed without exciting sensations of horror and disgust.

These monkeys frequently assemble in troops in order to plunder the plantations. When they have entered a field of millet, they load themselves with it, by taking in their mouths as much as they can carry, and putting a quantity under their arms and in each paw. Thus laden they return to their retreats, leaping all the way on their hind feet. If they happen to be pursued,

Depredations.

they do not, in their alarm, let the whole fall, in order to run off: they drop the stalks which they held in their hands, and under their arms, that they may run on their four feet, which they do with more speed than on two, but still carefully retain what they carried in their mouth. They examine with the most scrupulous accuracy; every stalk they pull, and those they find not perfectly suited to their purpose, they throw on the ground, and tear up others instead. By this delicacy of choice they often do much more injury than even by what they take away.

They inhabit Southern Africa, India, and Java; and are commonly taken in snares concealed among the branches of the trees, where they are continually skipping about in the most active and ludicrous gambols.

THE STRIATED MONKEY.

THIS little animal is about the size of a squirrel. The body is of a reddish ash-colour, slightly undulated with dusky shades. The face is a dark flesh colour, having on each a very large and thick tuft of milk-white hair, standing out before the ears. The paws, which are covered with hair, have sharp nails: and the tail is long and very thickly covered with fur, beautifully marked through its whole length with alternate bars of black and white.

Favourite food.

In their native forests, these quadrupeds are supposed to subsist principally on fruits, but in a state of confinement they will occasionally feed on insects, snails, &c. One that was brought to England in an East-India ship was peculiarly fond of the smaller kind of spiders and their eggs, but he uniformly refused the larger ones, as well as the large blue-bottle flies, though he frequently ate the common ones.

Mr. Edwards saw and drew one of these animals belonging to a lady, who informed him that it ate various kinds of food, as biscuits, fruit, vegetables, snails, and insects; and that once, when let loose, it snatched a Chinese gold fish out of a bason of water, which it killed and greedily devoured. After this, by way of trial, some small live eels were given to him, which frightened him much at first, by twisting round his neck; but he soon called forth resolution enough to master and eat them.

A pair of these animals, in the possession of a merchant at Lisbon, had young at that place. These at their birth were excessively ugly, having little or no fur. They would frequently cling very fast to the breasts of the dam; and when they grew a little, they used to hang on her back or shoulders. When she was tired, she would rub them off against the wall or whatever else was near, as the only mode of ridding herself of them. On being forced from the female, the male immediately took them to him, and suffered

Description.

them to hang round him for a while to ease her of the burthen.

Their voice is a kind of shrill hissing note; and most of them have a musky smell.

THE GREEN MONKEY.

THIS animal is about the size of a small cat. The colour of the body is a beautiful yellow green; the throat and belly are silvery white, and the face is black. The tail is about eighteen inches long.

These quadrupeds are numerous in the Cape de Verd islands and the East Indies; and are frequently seen in Mauritania, and the territories of ancient Carthage. "Hence," says M. Buffon, "it is probable that it was known to the Greeks and Romans; and that it was one of those long-tailed monkeys to which they gave the general appellation of callitrix.

Mr. Adanson relates, that in the woods of Podor, along the river Niger, these monkeys break branches from the trees and throw them at travellers; and their green colour renders them almost invisible. They are also perfectly silent; and so nimble in their motions as easily to evade the sight. Our author fired among them, when some concealed themselves behind the large branches, and others sprang from one tree to another, quite away. He killed twenty-three,

Description—Centinels.

not one of which uttered the slightest cry, although they had before assembled along with the rest, ground their teeth at him, and assumed a menacing aspect.

THE CHINESE MONKEY.

THE Chinese monkey derives its name from the singular disposition of the hair on the top of its head, which is parted in the middle, lying smooth over each side, and spreading out in a circular direction, so as to bear some resemblance to a Chinese cap. It has a long tail, and is about the size of a cat. The colour is a pale yellowish brown.

These animals are found in immense troops in the woods of Ceylon, where they are very destructive to such gardens and plantations as lie within the reach of their settlements. In their depredations on the sugar grounds, a centinel is always placed in some adjoining tree, while the rest load themselves with the booty. Upon the first appearance of danger or intrusion, he screams out to his companions, who, carrying as many canes as they can grasp with their right paw, instantly run off on three legs. When closely pursued, they drop their prize, and endeavour to save themselves by scrambling up the trees.

Their favourite food consists of fruits and succulent plants; but when these fail, they eat in-

sects, and sometimes descend to the sea coast, or the banks of rivers to catch fish. They gather cocoa-nuts, and know perfectly well how to extract the juice for drink, and the kernel for food. The natives sometimes take them by means of a cocoa-nut with a hole in it. This being laid near their haunts, some one of them takes it up, and with difficulty thrusts his paw into the hole in order to get at the kernel; and before he can disengage himself, the people who are on the watch, immediately run up, and secure him.

THE OUARINE, OR PREACHER.

THIS animal is the largest of all the American monkeys, being about the size of a large fox. The face is broad, the ears are short and round, and the eyes black and sparkling. The apertures of the nostrils are placed on the sides, and not under the nose, and the throat contains a bony process, in the cavity of which, the sound of the voice thickens, increases, and forms a kind of round beard under the neck. The tail is very long, and naked at the extremity, which is always twisted.

These animals are so wild and mischievous, that they can neither be conquered nor tamed. They bite dreadfully, and excite terror by their large mouths, frightful voice and ferocious aspect. Their voice somewhat resembles the noise

Supposed orations—Monkey-hunting.

of a drum, and it is said, may be heard to the distance of a league.

Marcgrave asserts, that they assemble in the woods every morning and evening, and make a most dreadful howling. Sometimes one of them mounts on an elevated branch, and the rest seat themselves round him: the first begins, as it were, to harangue, and set up a howl so loud and sharp as to be heard to a vast distance: during his supposed oration the auditors keep a profound silence; but on a certain signal, the whole assembly joins in chorus; till a second intimation produces silence, and the orator finishes his address. This circumstance has given rise to the appellation of *howlers*, commonly bestowed on this tribe.

The flesh of these animals is said to be well flavoured; and Oexmelin says, it resembles that of the hare; but that it is of a sweetish taste; and the fat is yellow like that of a capon. "My curiosity," says this traveller, "led me to attend the hunting of these animals, and I was surprised at their sagacity, not only in particularly distinguishing their enemies, but when attacked in defending themselves, and providing for their own safety. When we approached towards them they all assembled together, uttered loud and frightful cries, and threw at us dried branches which they broke off the trees. I also remarked, that they never abandoned each other: that they leaped from tree to tree with an almost imperceptible agility; and that though they took the

Surgical operation.

most desperate leaps, they seldom fell to the ground, because they never missed catching hold of the branches either with their hands or tail. This rendered it very difficult to take them, even after they were shot, unless killed outright; for even when mortally wounded, they remain fixed to the trees, where they often die, and from whence they do not fall till they are putrified. I have seen them hang in this manner for four days after death; and fifteen or sixteen of them are frequently shot before three or four can be obtained. What appeared still more singular, as soon as one was wounded, the rest assembled about him, and put their fingers into the wound, as if desirous of sounding its depth: and if the blood happened to flow in any quantity, some of them kept the orifice shut, while others chewed a number of leaves, and dexterously stopped it up. This operation I have often observed with much admiration."

These monkeys usually keep together in parties of twenty or thirty, and ramble over the tops of the woods, leaping occasionally from tree to tree; and if they see a person alone, they invariably teaze and menace him; as was experienced by Dampier in the vicinity of the Bay of Campeachy. "There was," says that traveller, "a great company dancing from tree to tree over my head, chattering and making a terrible noise, and a great many grimaces and antic gestures.

Native boldness—Affecting manners when wounded.

Some of them broke down dry sticks and flung at me; and one bigger than the rest, came to a small limb just over my head, and leaping directly at me, made me start back, but the monkey caught hold of the bough with the tip of his tail, and there remained swinging to and fro, making mouths at me. At last I passed on, they still keeping me company, with the like menacing gestures till I came to our huts.

“They are very sullen when seized, and extremely difficult to be taken when shot, for they will cling with their tail and feet to a bough, as long as any life remains. When I have shot at one, and broken its leg or arm, I have pitied the poor creature, to see it look at and handle the broken limb, and then turn it from side to side in a manner so mournful as scarcely to be described.

The same author asserts, that they frequently descend to the sea-shores to feed on shell-fish. He saw several of them take up oysters from the beach, lay them on a stone, and beat them with another till they demolished the shells, and then devour their contents. The same circumstance was observed by Wafer in the island of Gorgonia. The females produce only one at a birth; which they carry in the same manner as the Negroesses do their children on their backs. There is no other method of obtaining the young, but by shooting the dam, for nothing will induce her

Description—Affection towards the young.

to abandon it while living; but when she is killed, it falls to the ground, and may be easily taken.

THE SAJOU.

THIS is one of the most lively, dexterous, and amusing animals of the whole monkey genus. It is about the size of a small cat; with a brown body, and flesh-coloured face and ears. It is principally found in the woods of America; but its constitution seems well adapted to a temperate climate, and several instances have occurred of its breeding in Europe. One pair produced at Bordeaux, in the year 1764; and the affection of the parents toward their little charge afforded a truly interesting spectacle. They were continually carrying it about or caressing it; the father and mother taking it alternately; but now and then, when it did not hold properly, they gave it a pretty severe bite. Few animals are more whimsical than these in their taste and affections, entertaining partiality to some persons, and frequently the greatest aversion to others.

M. Buffon mentions a variety of this species, called the grey sajou; but it only differs from the former in the colour of its hair.

THE ORANGE MONKEY.

FROM the gracefulness of all its movements, the smallness of its size, brilliancy of its colours, and the largeness and vivacity of its eyes, this little animal has uniformly been preferred to all the other monkeys.

This animal is about the size of a squirrel. The head is round; the ears are large, and the eyes remarkably full and lively. The hair on the body shines like gold; the feet are of an orange colour, and the face is white, with a round black patch in the middle, in which are the mouth and nostrils; and this disposition of the features gives the animal the appearance of wearing a mask. The tail is very long, and black at the extremity.

Stedman, during his stay at Surinam, saw these monkeys every day passing along the sides of the river, skipping from tree to tree, and regularly following each other, like a little army, with their young ones at their backs. Their manner of travelling is this: the foremost walks to the extremity of a bough, whence it bounds to the extremity of one belonging to the next tree, often at a surprising distance, and with such wonderful activity and precision, that it never misses its aim; the others, one by one, and even the females with their little ones at their backs,

General description.

follow their leader, and perform the same leap with the greatest facility and safety.

This is a very delicate animal, and cannot be transplanted from its native climate.

THE CINGALESE MONKEY.

THIS animal is described by Professor Thunberg, as being about the size of a small cat, and having a long, hairy, and tapering tail: the body is grey; the face blackish, bald, and very little shaded with hair; the beard on the chin and cheeks is white, and turned backwards, the hairs standing however, nearly erect, and almost covering the ears in front. The hands and feet are of a blackish colour, and naked; the nails long and blunt, and the thumb detached and short. The tips of the ears are rounded, almost bare, and black.

These animals are kept tame in many parts of Ceylon. They are easily domesticated; and in this state generally sit upright, with their hands crossed over each other. When they observe an acquaintance, they immediately leap towards him; testifying their joy by fawning, and by a peculiar kind of cry. They are of a very gentle disposition, and never bite, unless much irritated. If any person kiss and caress a child in the presence of one of these animals, it expresses a desire to do the same. If a child is beaten in

Indian sanctuaries.

his presence, it rears itself on its hind legs, grins and howls in a revengeful manner, and, if let loose, will attack the chastiser. Professor Thunberg attempted to bring one of them into Europe, but it fell a sacrifice to the change of climate.

In several parts of India ancient temples are set apart as sanctuaries for animals of the monkey genus: where they are fed and cherished at the public expence. M. D'Obsonville remarks, that when travelling, he has occasionally entered these places to repose himself, and his Indian dress gave the animals little suspicion. He has seen several of them at first examining him, and then attentively looking at the food he was about to eat. Their eyes and agitation always expressed their passion to gormandize, and the strong desire they had to appropriate at least a part of his repast to themselves.

To amuse himself on these occasions, he always provided a quantity of parched peas. At first he would scatter a few on the side where the chief was, (for they have always a principal monkey to head them,) and the animal would cautiously approach, and collect them with avidity. He then used to present his handful, and as they are generally accustomed to see none but pacific people, the chief would venture, but in a sideling manner, to approach, as if guarding against some sinister contrivance. Presently, becoming bold, he would seize the thumb of the hand in which

Curious narration of M. D'Obsonville.

the peas were held, with one paw, and eat with the other, keeping at the same time his eyes steadily fixed on those of M. D'Obsonville. "If," continues our author, "I laughed or moved, he would break off his repast, and working his lips, make a kind of muttering, the sense of which, his long canine teeth, occasionally shown, plainly interpreted. When I threw a few at a distance, he seemed satisfied that others should gather them; but he grumbled at, and sometimes struck those that came too near me. His cries and solicitude, though in part perhaps the effect of greediness, apparently indicated his fear, lest I should take advantage of their weakness to ensnare them: and I constantly observed that those which were suffered to approach me nearest, were the full-grown and strong males; the young and the females were always obliged to keep at a considerable distance."

The maternal care and affection of the females, in a completely wild state, is equally conspicuous and interesting. They suckle, caress, and cleanse their young with unremitting assiduity; and afterwards, crouching on their hams, delight to see them wrestle or chase one another. They appear, however, to keep them under a due restraint, for whenever the young ones appear malicious in their antics, the dams spring upon them, and, seizing them with one paw by the tail, correct them severely with the other. On these occasions the little offenders try to escape, but

A singular contest.

when out of danger, approach in a wheedling and caressing manner, as if to solicit forgiveness, though ever liable to relapse into the same faults.

In their native wilds and forests these animals generally appear peaceable among each other: and when herds of different species happen to meet, they chatter together, without evincing any hostile inclinations. Sometimes, however, adventurous stragglers seem desirous of seeking their fortunes in places where another herd is in possession, and on such occasions the invaders are immediately repulsed. M. de Maisonpré, and six other Europeans, were witnesses to a singular contention of this nature in the enclosures of the pagodas of Cherinam. A large and strong monkey had stolen in, but was soon discovered. At the first cry of alarm many of the males united, and ran to attack the stranger. He, though greatly superior in size and strength, saw his danger, and flew to attain the top of a pyramid, eleven stories high, whither he was instantly followed; but when arrived at the summit of the building, which terminated in a small round dome, he placed himself firmly, and taking advantage of his situation, seized three or four of the most hardy, and precipitated them to the bottom. These proofs of his prowess intimidated the rest, and after much noise they thought proper to retreat. The conqueror retained his situation till evening, and then retired to a place of safety.

Such is the propensity of these animals to

Simple mode of taking monkeys:

thieving, that, not contented with the exuberant supply afforded by their native woods, they frequently steal from houses, gardens, or orchards whatever they are able to carry away. When any of them perceive a child with bread or fruit in its hand, they immediately run up, frighten it, and take away its food. And if they happen to see an Indian woman drying grain in the sun, some of them skip round and pretend to steal; and the moment she runs to strike them, the others, watching their opportunity, seize the grain and carry it off.

The extreme cunning of these quadrupeds renders it almost impossible to take them in traps; yet M. D'Obsonville informs us that he has seen them caught by a very simple contrivance. The man employed, chose a place near their haunts, and fastened a copper vessel, with a mouth about two inches in diameter, to the foot of a tree; then, after scattering some grains, removed to a distance. These were soon devoured, and he brought more. The third time he was more bountiful of his grain, especially around and within the pot, in which were placed five or six running knots, crossing each other in different directions. He had scarcely hidden himself before several monkeys and their young ran to try who should get first. They had soon emptied the vessel, but their hands were caught. The man approached before they had time to li-

The disappointed weasel.

berate themselves, threw a carpet over them, and thus took two females and their young.

There are few persons unacquainted with the various mimicries and capricious feats of activity exhibited by these animals in a state of domestic tameness: but it is generally in company with other quadrupeds of a more simple disposition that their tricks and superior instincts are shewn. They seem to take a delight in teasing them; and Dr. Goldsmith observes, that he has seen one of them for hours together amusing itself with imposing upon the gravity of a cat. Erasmus relates that a large monkey, one day diverting itself in a garden where some tame rabbits were kept, played several pranks among them, while the rabbits scarcely knew what to make of their new acquaintance: in the mean time, a weasel, that came for a very different purpose than that of entertainment, was seen peering about the place in which the rabbits were fed, and endeavouring to make its way, by removing a board that closed their hutch. The monkey, for some time, remained a calm spectator of the enemy's efforts, but when he had at length surmounted the difficulty and removed the board, the monkey stepped in, and fastened it again in its place; while the disappointed weasel was compelled to retire, being too much fatigued to renew its operations.

We shall conclude our account of these singular animals with reciting the particulars of a bat-



BULL DOG & MONKEY.

Curious battle between a monkey and a bull-dog.

tle said to have taken place at Worcester, in the year 1799, between a monkey and a bull-dog. A wager of three guineas to one was laid, that the dog killed the monkey in six minutes; though the latter was to be allowed to use a stick about a foot long. Hundreds of spectators assembled to witness this curious spectacle, and bets ran high in favour of the dog, which could hardly be held in. At length, the owner of the monkey, taking from his pocket a thick round ruler about a foot long, threw it into the paw of the monkey, saying, "Now Jack, look sharp, mind that dog!" The dog, being loosed, rushed forward with tiger-like fierceness; but the monkey, with inconceivable agility, sprung at least a yard high, and, falling upon his adversary, seized the back of his neck with his teeth, at the same time grasping one ear with his left paw to prevent his turning to bite. In this posture Jack beat the head of the dog so forcibly and rapidly with the ruler, that the creature cried out most piteously, and was soon carried off in nearly a lifeless state.

THE SLOW-PACED LEMUR.

THE animals composing the lemur tribe have a considerable resemblance to the monkeys in their habits and manners, as well as in the formation of their paws. They differ from them,

however, in the length of their hind legs, and in the shape of the head, which is somewhat like that of a fox.

The slow-paced lemur is about the size of a small cat. Its body is of a pale brown, or mouse colour. The face is flattish, and the nose somewhat sharpened. The eyes, which are very prominent, are surrounded with a circle of dark brown, and a stripe of the same colour runs down the middle of the back.

It is remarkably slow in its motions which has given rise to its appellation, and has even induced some naturalists to rank it among the sloths, though in no other respect resembling that genus. It is a nocturnal animal, and lies motionless during the greatest part of the day. It inhabits the island of Ceylon, and various parts of the East Indies.

An interesting description of this little creature has been given by the late Sir William Jones, in the fourth volume of the Asiatic Researches; the substance of which I shall lay before the reader.

“In his manners he was for the most part gentle, except in the cold season, when his temper seemed entirely changed; and his Creator, who made him so sensible of cold, to which he must frequently have been exposed even in his native forests, gave him, probably for that reason, a thick fur, which is rarely seen on animals in the tropical climates.

“To me, who not only constantly fed him,

but bathed him twice a week in water accommodated to the seasons, and whom he clearly distinguished from others, he was at all times grateful; but when I disturbed him in winter he was generally indignant, and seemed to reproach me with the uneasiness he felt, though no possible precautions had been omitted to keep him in a proper degree of warmth. At all times he was pleased with being stroked on the head and throat, and frequently suffered me to touch his extremely sharp teeth; but his temper was always quick, and when unseasonably disturbed, he expressed a little resentment, by an obscure murmur, like that of a squirrel; or a greater degree of displeasure by a peevish cry, especially in winter, when he was often as fierce, on being much importuned, as any beast of the woods.

“From half an hour after sun-rise to half an hour after sun-set, he slept without intermission, rolled up like a hedgehog; and as soon as he awoke, he began licking and dressing himself like a cat; an operation which the flexibility of his neck and limbs enabled him to perform very completely: he was then ready for a slight breakfast, after which he commonly took a short nap; but when the sun was quite set he recovered all his vivacity.

“His ordinary food was the sweet fruit of Tri-pura; plantains always, and mangoes during the season; but he refused peaches, and was not fond of mulberries nor even of guaiavas: milk he

Manners of a tame lemur.

lapped eagerly, but was contented with plain water. In general he was not voracious, but never appeared satisfied with grasshoppers; and passed the whole night, while the hot season lasted, in prowling for them. When a grasshopper, or any insect, alighted within his reach, his eyes, which he fixed on his prey, glowed with uncommon fire; and, having drawn himself back to spring on it with greater force, he seized the prey with both his fore-paws, but held it in one of them while he devoured it. For other purposes, and sometimes even for that of holding his food, he used all his paws indifferently as hands, and frequently grasped with one of them the higher part of his cage, while his three others were severally engaged at the bottom of it; but the posture of which he seemed fondest was to cling with all four of them to the upper wires, his body being inverted. In the evening he usually stood erect for many minutes, playing on the wires with his fingers, and rapidly moving his body from side to side, as if he had found the utility of exercise in his state of confinement.

“A little before day-break, when my early hours gave me frequent opportunities of observing him, he seemed to solicit my attention; and if I presented my finger to him he licked or nibbled it with great gentleness, but eagerly took fruit when I offered it; though he seldom ate much at his morning repast. When the day brought back *his* night, his eyes seemed to lose

their strength and lustre, and he composed himself for a slumber of ten or eleven hours.

“ My little friend was on the whole, very engaging ; and when he was found lifeless in the same posture in which he would naturally have slept, I consoled myself with believing that he died without much pain, and lived with as much pleasure as he could have enjoyed in a state of captivity.”

Thevenot informs us, that he saw two of these animals which had been brought from Ceylon. When examined, they sat erect on their hind feet, folded the others across, and looked round at the numerous spectators who visited them without the least signs of fear.

M. D’Obsonville observes of one of these animals, which he purchased of an Indian, that it was melancholy, silent, and patient ; and its motions were so extremely slow, that even when it seemed desirous of moving fast, it scarcely proceeded above six or eight yards in a minute. His voice was a kind of whistling, by no means unpleasant. When his prey was attempted to be taken from him, his countenance changed to an appearance expressive of chagrin, and he inwardly uttered an acute and tremulous note. He generally slept during the day with his head resting upon his hands, and his elbows between his thighs. But in the midst of this sleep, although his eyes were closed, he was exceedingly sensible to all external impressions, and never

Method of taking prey.

neglected to seize whatever prey came inconsiderately within his reach. Though the glare of sun-shine seemed very unpleasant to him, it was never observed that the pupils of his eyes suffered any contraction.

During the first month he was kept with a cord tied round his waist, which, without attempting to untie, he sometimes lifted up with an air of grief. Our author took charge of him himself, and at the beginning he was bitten four or five times for offering to disturb or take him up; but gentle chastisement soon corrected these little passions, and he afterwards gave him the liberty of his bed-chamber. Towards night the little animal would rub his eyes, then looking attentively round, would climb upon the furniture, or more frequently upon ropes placed for that purpose.

His master would sometimes tie a bird in the part of the chamber opposite to him, or hold it in his hand, inviting him to approach: he would presently come near with a long careful step, like a person walking on tip-toe, to surprise another. When within about a foot of his prey he would stop, and rising himself upright, advance gently, stretching out his paw to seize his victim, with remarkable celerity.

He appeared sensible of caresses, and expressed his affection by taking the end of M. D'Obsonville's fingers, pressing them, and at the same time fixing his half-open eyes on those of his master.

THE VIRGINIAN OPOSSUM.

THIS animal is about the size of a small cat: but the upright growth of its fur causes it to appear considerably thicker. Its general colour is a dingy white. The head is long, and sharpened; and the mouth wide. The tail is about a foot long; prehensile; hairy near its origin; but afterwards covered with a scaly skin, which gives it the appearance of a snake. The legs are short, and blackish; and the two interior toes are flat and rounded, with nails like those of a monkey: the rest are armed with sharp claws. But the peculiar characteristic of the female opossum is an abdominal pouch, for the protection and preservation of her young; some of these have two, and some three cavities, which can be opened and shut at pleasure.

When on the ground, this creature appears very helpless: the formation of its hands preventing it from either running or walking very fast; but notwithstanding this defect, it is able to ascend trees with the utmost facility: in which situation, by the help of its prehensile tail, it is more active than most other quadrupeds. It hunts eagerly after birds and their nests; and is very destructive to poultry, of which it sucks the blood without eating the flesh. It also eats roots, wild fruits, &c.

Artifice when taken—Description of the young.

When pursued and overtaken, it will feign itself dead, till the danger is over: and Du Pratz asserts, that when seized in this condition, it will not exhibit any signs of life, though even placed on a red-hot iron; and when there are any young in the pouch of a female, she will suffer both herself and them to be roasted alive rather than give them up. These animals never move till their assailant is either gone to a distance, or has concealed himself; when they scramble, with as much expedition as possible, into the first hole or bush that offers an asylum.

Previous to the time of parturition the female chooses a place in the thick bushes, at the foot of some tree. With the assistance of the male, she then collects together a quantity of fine dry grass; which is loaded upon her belly, and the male drags her and her burthen to the nest, by her tail. She produces from four to six young ones at a time, which are brought forth blind, naked, and exactly resembling little foetuses. These immediately retreat into the afore-mentioned pouch, and fasten closely to the teats; to which they continue to adhere apparently inanimate, till they obtain their sight, strength, and hair. From that time they use the pouch merely as an asylum from danger. The mother carries them about with the utmost affection, and they may frequently be seen sporting in and out of this secure retreat. Whenever they are surprised, and

An American adage—The Surinam opossum.

have not time to retire into the pouch, it is said, they will adhere to the tail of the parent, and thus still endeavour to escape with her. They appear to be hardy animals, and are so tenacious of life, that in North Carolina it is a common adage, If a cat have nine lives, the opossum has nineteen. Their flesh is white, and well-tasted, and that of the young is said to eat very much like sucking pig. Their hair is spun and dyed by the Indians, who weave it into girdles, and other articles of dress.

THE SURINAM OPOSSUM.

THIS animal was first described by Sibillas Merian, a German artist; from whom some authors have called it the Merian Opossum: but a figure and description was afterwards given by Siba. According to that writer, it has sparkling eyes, surrounded with a circle of brown hair: the teeth are pointed and very sharp; and there are long hairs, in form of whiskers, on the upper jaw, and above the eyes: the ears are naked, and the teeth remarkably sharp. The body is covered with soft hair of a reddish yellow on the back, and of a yellowish white on the snout, forehead, belly, and feet. Upon the tail of the male, which is naked and of a pale red, there are some dark spots not perceptible in the female. The fore paws resemble those of the ape; having four fin-

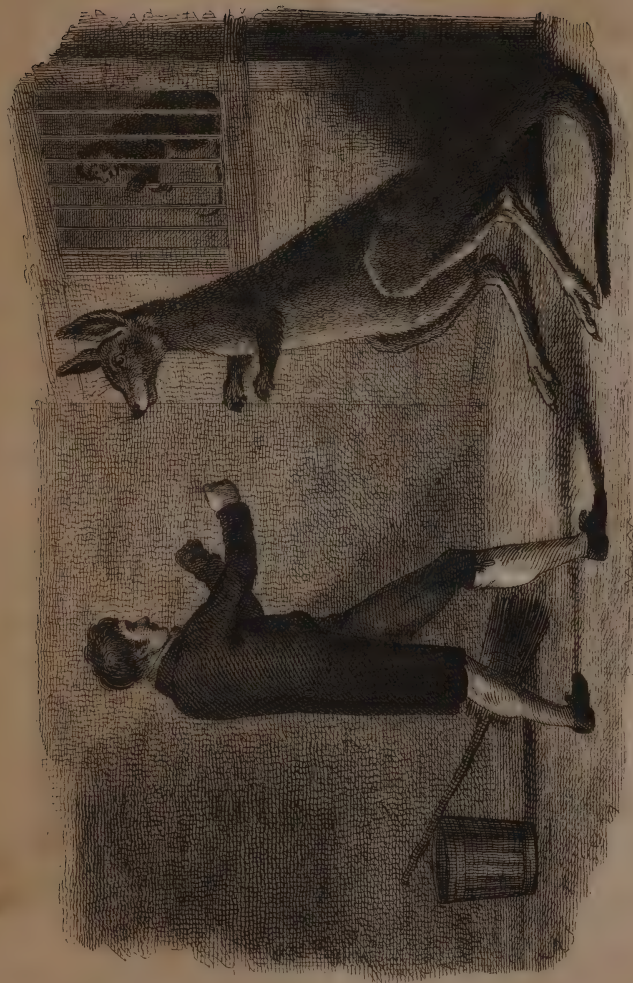
General description.

gers and a thumb, with small rounded nails; whereas only the great toe of the hind feet is flat and obtuse, the rest being armed with sharp claws.

When the young ones come out of their hole, either to play or to seek their food, they run about with their mother; and when satisfied with food, or apprehensive of danger, they climb on her back, twist their tails round hers, and are thus carried off with safety and celerity.

THE KANGUROO.

THIS singular animal is a native of New South Wales, where it was first discovered in the year 1770, by Captain Cook. It has sometimes been seen nearly nine feet in length from the tip of the nose to the end of the tail; and some of the species have been found to weigh a hundred and fifty pounds. It is covered with a short and soft fur, of a reddish ash colour, lighter on the lower parts. The head is small and taper; the ears are large and erect, and the nose garnished with whiskers. The neck and shoulders are small, increasing gradually to the hips, and the bottom of the belly. The fore legs of the largest are about nineteen inches in length; the hinder ones three feet seven inches. The former are chiefly used by the animal in digging its burrows in the ground, and in carrying food to its mouth.



KANGAROO.

Pub. April 1, 1866, by James Spence, London.

Description—Mode of defence.

It moves altogether on its hind legs, making successive bounds of ten or twelve feet, with such rapidity as to outstrip the fleetest greyhound. It also springs from rock to rock, and leaps over bushes seven or eight feet high with apparent facility. The claws are only three in number, the middle one exceeding the others greatly in length and strength; but the inner one is of a remarkable structure; at first sight appearing single, though on farther inspection it is found to be really divided down the middle, and even through the ball of the toe belonging to it, appearing as if separated by a sharp instrument.

The tail of the kangaroo is long, very thick near its insertion, and tapering toward the end. This is occasionally used as a weapon of defence; for with it the animal can strike with such astonishing force as even to break the leg of a man. The colonists for some time considered this as the chief instrument of defence; but having of late hunted the kangaroo with greyhounds, it was discovered that they use both their claws and teeth. When overtaken and seized, they turn, and catching hold with the nails of their fore paws, strike the dog with the claws of their hind feet, which are prodigiously strong, and tear him to such a degree that the hunters are frequently obliged to carry him home on account of the severity of his wounds. The native dogs of the country hunt and kill the kangaroo; but these

Mode of feeding.

are stronger and more fierce than our greyhounds.

The kangaroo generally feeds standing on its four feet, in the manner of other quadrupeds. It drinks by lapping. In a state of captivity, it has sometimes a trick of springing forwards and kicking with its hind feet in a very forcible manner; during which action it seems to rest on the base of its tail.

A remarkable peculiarity in this animal is the faculty which it has of separating to a considerable distance the two long fore teeth in the lower jaw. This, however, is also observable in the *mus maritimus*, an animal of a distinct genus.

The female has an abdominal pouch, similar to that of the opossum, in which the young are nursed and sheltered from danger.

In their native state these animals feed in herds of thirty or forty together; and one is generally observed to be stationed, apparently on watch, at a distance from the rest. According to Labillardiere, they seem to be nocturnal animals. They have the eye furnished with winking membranes, situated at the interior angle, and capable of being extended at pleasure entirely over the ball. They live in burrows which they form in the ground.

The flesh of the kangaroo is said to be coarse, and such as to be eaten rather from want of other food than as an article of luxury. Mr. Hunter,

Kangaroos at Exeter 'Change.

indeed, calls it good mutton; but he acknowledges it is not quite so delicate as what he has sometimes seen in Leadenhall-market.

These animals may now be considered as in some degree naturalized in England; several having been long kept in the royal domains at Richmond, which, during their residence there, have produced young, and apparently promise to become a permanent acquisition to our country.

There are at present (1806) a remarkably fine pair of kangaroos in the exhibition rooms at Exeter 'Change. They were brought over from Port Jackson in New South Wales, and have been in Mr. Pidcock's possession between six and seven years. The male, when in an erect posture, is upwards of six feet high, and is an animal of prodigious strength. On visiting the menagerie some months since, I saw this noble quadruped wrestle with the keeper for the space of ten or fifteen minutes, during which time he evinced the utmost intrepidity and sagacity; turning in every direction to face his opponent, carefully watching an opportunity to close with him, and occasionally grasping him with his fore paws, while the right hind leg was employed in kicking him upon the thigh and hip, with equal force and rapidity. The struggle was indeed obstinate, and the keeper acknowledged that the animal was sometimes almost superior in point of strength. When the contest was at an end, the kangaroo still continued to present himself

Kanguroos at Exeter 'Change.

as ready for a fresh engagement; nor did he seem willing to return to his apartment, till the female was brought out to entice him. He then returned, bounding through the exhibition room with astonishing speed and vivacity.

The female, though considerably smaller than the male, is a fine animal, and has had five young ones, some of which are now stuffed and preserved among the other curiosities in the menagerie.

Here are also another kangaroo, which came over in the *Lady Barlow*; and a beautiful, though small, variety, called the silver-haired kangaroo, brought to England by Captain Woodraffe in the *Calcutta* frigate. It is about three years of age, and has been in Mr. Pidcock's possession since the month of August, 1804.

The food of these animals in their native wilds, is supposed to consist principally of grass: but those in the menagerie are regularly fed with bread, hay, bran, oats, and cabbages.

THE DUCK-BILLED PLATYPUS.

THE duck-billed platypus is a new and extraordinary genus recently discovered in New South Wales. Sir Joseph Banks had in his possession two specimens which were sent over by Governor Hunter: and only one or two others have as yet arrived in England.

General description.

The length of this curious animal from the tip of the beak to the end of the tail is thirteen inches, of which the beak occupies one inch and a half. The head is rather small, and the mouth bears so near a resemblance to the beak of some broad-billed ducks, that it is not without minute examination that we can persuade ourselves of its being the real snout of a quadruped. The body is depressed, and is somewhat like that of an otter in miniature: it is covered with a thick soft fur, of a moderately dark brown above, and whitish beneath. The legs are very short, and terminate in a broad web, which extends to a considerable distance beyond the claws: on the fore feet are five claws, straight, strong, and sharp pointed; and on the hind feet are six curved ones; the interior of which is seated much higher than the rest, and resembles a strong sharp spur.

The specimens of this animal hitherto sent to England, have been deprived of their intestines, and for the most part ill preserved. Mr. Home, however, examined one belonging to Sir Joseph Banks, which had been kept in spirits, and was tolerably perfect. He discovered that although the beak, when cursorily examined, had such a striking resemblance to that of the duck, as to induce a supposition that it was calculated for the very same purposes; yet when all its parts were carefully examined, it evidently differed in a variety of circumstances. This it appears is

Singular conformation.

not the animal's mouth, but is merely an appendage projecting beyond it.

The cavity of the mouth is like that of other quadrupeds, and contains two grinders on each side, both in the upper and under jaw; but instead of front teeth, the nasal and palate bones are continued forwards, lengthening the anters or nostrils, and forming the upper part of the beak; and the two portions of the lower jaw, instead of terminating, as in other quadrupeds, are also continued forwards, and form the under portion of the beak. This structure is very different from the bills of all birds, since in them the cavities of the nostrils do not extend beyond the root of the bill; and in the lower portions, which correspond with the under jaw of quadrupeds, the edges are hard, to answer the purpose of teeth, and in the middle there is a hollow space to receive the tongue: but in the platypus the two thin plates of bone are in the centre, and the parts that surround them are composed of skin and membrane.

The teeth have no fangs that sink into the jaw, as in most other quadrupeds, but are embedded in the gums. They have also only lateral processes from the outer and inner edges of the jaw, to secure them in their places. The tongue is scarcely half an inch long, and the moveable part is not more than a quarter of an inch. It can be drawn entirely into the mouth, and, when

extended, reaches about a quarter of an inch into the beak.

The beak itself is covered with a smooth black skin, that extends some way beyond the bones, both in front and laterally; and forms a moveable lip, so strong, that when dried or hardened in spirits, it seems to be quite rigid, but when moistened, it is very pliant, and is probably a muscular structure. The under part of the beak has a lip equally broad with the upper: this has a serrated edge, wanting in the upper mandible, but the serræ are chiefly confined to the soft part.

A curious transverse fold of the black skin by which the beak is covered, projects all round, exactly at that part where it has its origin. This may probably be designed to prevent the beak from being pushed farther into the soft mud, in which prey may be concealed, than to this part. The nerves that supply the beak nearly resemble those of birds; and the cavity of the skull has a greater resemblance to that of a duck than a quadruped.

The organ of smell differs in some measure from that both of birds and quadrupeds. The external opening is placed near the end of the beak, from whence two cavities, extending all the way along the beak, are superadded to this organ. The orifice of the eye is extremely small in proportion to the size of the animal: and the external opening of the ear is so minute as not to be discovered without difficulty.

General description.

From the general form of this animal we are led to suppose, that it burrows in the banks of rivers, or under ground, and that its food consists of aquatic plants and animals. But the structure of it is such as not to enable it to take firm hold of its prey: when the two marginal lips are brought together, the animal may have a considerable power of suction, and in this manner it probably draws food into its mouth.

THE COMMON SEAL.

THIS animal has an elongated body, covered with short glossy hair of various colours, and tapering from the shoulder to the tail. The head is large and round; the neck small and short; and each side of the mouth is garnished with several strong bristles. The eyes are large; and the tongue is cleft or forked at the end. There are no auricles, or external ears; and consequently the sense of hearing is not very acute. The legs are remarkably short; and the hinder ones placed so backward, as to be but of little use except in swimming. The feet are webbed, and the tail is very short. The voice of a full-grown seal may be compared to the hoarse barking of a dog; but that of the young has a nearer resemblance to the mewing of a cat.

They usually reside in excavated caverns near the sea, but out of the reach of the tide. In the

summer they will leave the water, to bask or sleep in the sun on the large stones or fragments of rocks; and this is the opportunity that our countrymen take of shooting them. If they have the good fortune to escape, they hasten to the water, flinging stones and dirt behind them as they scramble along; at the same time expressing their fears by mournful cries. But when overtaken, they make a vigorous defence with their feet and teeth.

They are remarkably agile in their proper depth of water; dive like a shot, and suddenly rise at the distance of forty or fifty yards. A few years ago, one of them was seen on the coast of Cornwall, in pursuit of a mullet. The seal turned it to and fro, in deep water, as a grey hound does a hare. The mullet, at last, found it had no way to escape but by running into shoal water: the seal pursued; and the former, to get more securely out of danger, threw itself on its side, by which means it darted into shallower water than it could otherwise have swam in, and thus escaped.

In the act of swimming, seals always keep their head above water; and when basking on the rocks, they are extremely watchful, seldom sleeping longer than a minute without moving; they then raise their heads, and if nothing be seen or heard more than ordinary, again lie down, and so on, alternately raising and inclining their heads at intervals of about a minute.

Tame seals.

It is asserted, that these animals delight in thunder-storms, and that on such occasions they sit upon the rocks, contemplating with evident pleasure the convulsions of the elements.

It is a known fact that seals, when taken young, may be rendered perfectly tame, and taught to follow their master like a dog. A respectable writer informs us that some years ago a young seal was thus domesticated: "It was taken at a little distance from the sea, and was generally kept in a vessel full of salt water; but sometimes was permitted to crawl about the house, and even to approach the fire. Its natural food was regularly procured for it; and it was taken to the sea every day, and thrown in from a boat. It used to swim after the boat, and always suffered itself to be taken back. It lived thus for several weeks; and probably would have lived much longer, had it not been sometimes too roughly used."

In the year 1754, a seal was exhibited in London, which would answer to the call of his keeper, take food from his hand, crawl out of the water, and stretch himself out at full length on the ground. He would even thrust out his neck and appear to salute the keeper, as often as the man pleased; and when directed, would again return into the water. A few years since, a farmer of Aberdowry, near the Frith of Forth, in going out among the rocks to catch shell-fish, discovered a young seal, about two feet and a

Instance of attachment—Seal hunting.

half long, which he carried home. The animal greedily devoured some pottage and milk which was offered to it, and continued to be fed in this manner for three days ; when the man's wife, considering it as a needless expense to her family, would not suffer it to be kept any longer. Taking some men of the town along with him for the purpose, the farmer threw it into the sea; but notwithstanding all their endeavours, it persisted in returning to them. It was then agreed that the tallest of the men should walk into the water as far as he could, and having thrown the animal in, they should conceal themselves behind a rock at some distance. This was accordingly done; but the affectionate creature returned from the water, and soon discovered them in their hiding-place. This induced the farmer to grant it his protection, and he again took it home, where he kept it for some time; but at length growing tired of it, he had it killed for the sake of its skin.

The time for taking seals is generally in October, or the beginning of November. The hunters, furnished with torches and bludgeons, enter the mouths of the caverns about midnight, and row in as far as they can. They then land; and, being properly stationed, begin making a great noise; which alarms the seals, and brings them down from all parts in a confused hurry, uttering frightful cries. On this occasion, much care is necessary on the part of the hunters, to

Advantages of the seal fishery to the Greenlanders.

avoid the throng, which presses down upon them with irresistible impetuosity; but when the first crowd has passed, great numbers of young ones generally straggle behind, which are easily killed by a slight blow on the nose.

The inhabitants of Greenland derive the most important advantages from the seal fishery; those animals being indispensably necessary towards their existence. The flesh supplies them with their principal and most palatable food; the fat furnishes oil for their lamps and fires, and is frequently bartered for other necessities with the factor; the fibres of the sinews are better adapted for sewing than either thread or silk; part of the bladders are used in fishing, as buoys or floats to their harpoons; and the skins are made into curtains for tents, clothing, coverings for beds and boats, and thongs and straps of every description. Even the blood is not wasted; for the natives boil it with other ingredients as soup. The art of taking seals is the favourite object of the Greenlanders' ambition; and to this they are trained from childhood. By this they are enabled to procure a subsistence; by this they render themselves agreeable to each other, and become useful members of the community.

The season for taking seals in Finland begins when the sea breaks up, and the ice floats in shoals upon the surface. Four or five peasants then go out in a small open boat, and sometimes continue more than a month absent from their

Taking of seals a dangerous employment.

families, exposing themselves to all the horrors of the northern seas, having only a small fire which they kindle on a sort of brick hearth, and living on the flesh of the seals which they kill. The extreme danger of this employment will appear from the following narrative:

“ Some years ago two Finlanders set out in a boat together. Having discovered some seals on a small floating island, they quitted their boat, and mounted the ice, moving on their hands and knees to get near them without being perceived. They had previously fastened their boat to the ice island which they disembarked upon: but while they were busily engaged in the pursuit, a gust of wind tore it away; and meeting with other shoals, it was broken to pieces, and in a few minutes entirely disappeared. The hunters were now left without help, without any resource, and without even a ray of hope, on their frail and floating territory, where they remained about a fortnight. The heat which diminished its bulk, and also its prominent surface, rendered their situation more alarming every moment. In the anguish of hunger they gnawed the flesh off their arms. At length they embraced each other, resolved to plunge together into the sea, and thus terminate their misery, as they had no prospect of escaping. The fatal resolution was just made, when they discovered a sail. One of them stripped off his shirt, and suspended it on the muzzle of his gun. The signal was observed from the

Manners of the parent seals with their young.

vessel, which was a whale-fisher. A boat was put out to assist them, and by this providential circumstance they were happily snatched from impending destruction."

The female seal produces two or more young ones at a birth: these she deposits in the cavities of the ice; and the male makes a hole through the ice near them, for a speedy communication with the water: for they invariably plunge into that element the moment they observe a hunter approach; and at other times they descend into it spontaneously in quest of food. When the females come out of the sea, they bleat like sheep for their young; and though they often pass through hundreds of other young ones before they come to their own, yet they will never suffer any of the strangers to suck. About a fortnight after their birth, the young are taken out to sea, and instructed in swimming and seeking their food; and when fatigued, the parent is said to place them on her back. Their growth is so rapid, that in about fifty hours after their birth, they become as active as their parents; and a seal six weeks old, will sometimes yield about eight gallons of oil.

The flesh of the seal was formerly admitted to the tables of the great; as appears from the bill of fare of a sumptuous entertainment given by Archbishop Neville, in the reign of Edward the Fourth. The skins also are very valuable, and make a beautiful kind of leather.

General description.

These seals are found on most of the rocky shores of Great Britain and Ireland. They are also found considerably within the arctic circle in the seas of Europe and Asia.

THE URSINE SEAL.

THESE seals are chiefly found on the islands in the vicinity of Kamtschatka, from June to September, during which time they breed and educate their offspring. They are said then to quit their stations, and return, some to the Asiatic, and some to the American shore, generally however keeping between fifty and fifty-six degrees of latitude.

The usual length of the males is about eight feet; but the females are considerably smaller. Their bodies are thick, gradually decreasing towards the tail; and the colour of the hair is generally black, but that of the old ones is tipped with grey, and many of the females are ash coloured. The nose projects like that of a pug dog; and the eyes are large and prominent. The fore-legs are about two feet long; and the feet are formed with toes, which are covered with a naked skin, and have somewhat the appearance of turtles' fins. The hind legs are rather shorter, and have five toes, separated by a web.

The voice of these seals is very different on various occasions; thus, when diverting them-

Mode of living—Attachment to their young.

selves on the shore they low like a cow; when engaged in battle they utter a hideous growl; on a defeat, or after receiving a wound, they mew like a cat; and the note of triumph after a victory is somewhat like the chirping of a cricket.

These animals live in families, each of which keeps separate from the others, although they lie by thousands on the shores where they inhabit. They also swim in tribes when they take to the sea. Each male has a seraglio of from eight to fifty females whom he guards with the most jealous strictness. They are fondly attached to their young, and if any one attempt to carry off a cub, they will stand boldly on the defensive, while the female conveys it away in her mouth. Should she happen to drop it, the male instantly quits his enemy, falls on her, and beats her against the stones till he leaves her for dead. As soon as she recovers, she crawls to his feet in the most suppliant manner, and washes them with her tears: whilst he brutally insults her misery, stalking about in the most insolent manner. But if the young be entirely carried off, he melts into the greatest affliction, shedding tears, and exhibiting every proof of poignant sorrow.

It sometimes happens that the old or feeble seals are deserted by the females; in which case they withdraw themselves from society; become excessively quarrelsome; and are so attached to their own stations, as to prefer even death to the

Furious battles.

loss of them. If another animal happen to approach them, they are instantly roused from their indolence, snap at the encroacher, and give him battle. During the fight, they insensibly intrude on the station of their neighbour, who then joins in the contest; so that at length the civil discord spreads through the whole shore, attended with hideous growls. Mr. Steller, and his men, in order to try the experiment, wantonly attacked one of these seals, put out both his eyes, and irritated four or five of his neighbours by throwing stones at them. When these pursued him he ran towards the blind animal; who, hearing them approach, fell upon them with the utmost fury. Mr. Steller escaped to an adjoining eminence whence he observed the battle, which raged for several hours. The blind seal attacked without distinction, both friends and foes; till, at length, the whole herd, taking part against him, allowed him no rest, either on shore or in the sea, till he was at length overpowered and killed.

When two of these animals are engaged, they rest at intervals, lying down near each other; then, rising both at once, renew the battle. They fight with their heads erect, and turn them aside to avoid the blows. As long as their strength continues equal, they only use their fore-paws; but the moment one of them fails, the other seizes him with his teeth, and throws him upon the ground. The wounds they inflict are very deep, and like the cut of a sabre; and, it is said,

Tenacity of life.

that in the month of July scarcely one is to be seen that has not some mark of this sort. At the conclusion of an engagement, such as have sufficient strength throw themselves into the sea in order to wash off the blood. They are also remarkably tenacious of life, and will survive a fortnight after receiving such wounds as would soon prove mortal to any other quadruped. "One of them," says Martens, "was not killed though we had cut off most of his fat; and notwithstanding all our blows, he would still bite and snap at us. I ran another several times through the body with my sword, which he did not seem in the least to regard; but at length, he got up; ran swifter than I could; and flung himself from the ice into the sea, where he immediately went to the bottom. When they go into the water, or when they dive, after having breathed, they, in the manner of some other marine animals, whirl themselves round like a wheel. They cut through the waves with great rapidity, sometimes proceeding at the rate of seven or eight miles an hour. They frequently swim on their back, and so near the surface of the water as to have their hind paws perfectly dry. On coming ashore they shake themselves, and smooth their hair with their hind feet: then, applying their lips to those of the females, as if to salute them, they lie down to bask in the sun, or roll themselves up into a ball, and thus fall asleep. Their cubs are as sportive as puppies; they have mock fights, and

frequently tumble one another on the ground; while the male parent looks on with evident complacency, licks and kisses them, and seems to take a greater affection to the victor than to the other.

On Bering's island these animals are said to be found in such numbers that they completely cover the shore; and travellers are obliged, for their own safety, to leave the sands and level country, and go over the hills. It is, however, remarkable, that they only frequent that part of the coast which is towards Kamtschatka. In the beginning of June they retire to the southward, to bring forth their young; and return about the end of August.

The flesh of the females and young is said to be exceedingly good; but that of the males is very rank.

The general colour of these animals is black. They are covered with a coat of large rough hair, under which is a soft down of bay colour.

THE BOTTLE-NOSED SEAL.

THE male of this species is extremely large, sometimes measuring from fifteen to twenty feet in length; he is also distinguished from the female by a large snout, projecting five or six inches below the end of the upper jaw. The feet are short, and the hinder ones so webbed as to

Depth of fat—Lethargic disposition.

appear like fins. The general colour of the hair is ferruginous.

Their fat is so considerable, as to lie ten or twelve inches deep between the skin and the flesh. Hence, when they are in motion, they appear almost like immense skins filled with oil; the tremulous motion of the blubber being plainly discernible beneath the surface. They have also so much blood, that, if deeply wounded in a dozen places, it will gush out at every one, and spout to a considerable distance. Their usual voice is a kind of loud grunting, or sometimes a snorting, like that of a horse in full vigour.

They are of a lethargic disposition, and when at rest, they are not easily disturbed. Their time seems pretty equally divided between the land and sea; as they continue out during the summer, and come on shore at the commencement of winter. They feed on the grass and verdure which grows on the banks of the fresh-water streams; and when not employed in feeding, they sleep in herds, in the most miry places they can find. Each herd seems to be under the direction of a large male; which mariners ludicrously stile the bashaw, from his driving of the other males from a number of females which he appropriates to himself. These bashaws, however, do not arrive at this envied superiority without many fierce and sanguinary conflicts, of which their numerous scars generally bear evidence. Some of Lord Anson's party observed,

Seals easily taken.

one day on the island of Juan Fernandez, what they at first supposed to have been animals of a kind different from any they had previously seen; but, on a nearer approach, they proved to be two of these seals, which had been goring each other with their teeth till both were completely covered with blood.

It is not difficult to kill them; for their propensity to sleep, and their sluggish and unwieldy motions generally render them an easy prey to their enemies. Sometimes, however, they make a vigorous resistance; and it is said, that as a sailor was one day employed in skinning one of the young; the female from whom he had taken it, came upon him unperceived, and getting his head into her mouth, lacerated his skull so dreadfully, that he died in a few days afterwards.

According to Lord Anson's account, the flesh of these quadrupeds is somewhat like beef; and the hearts and tongues are excellent eating.

These animals are principally found in the seas about New Zealand, on the island of Juan Fernandez, and the Falkland islands. The females produce two young ones in the winter, which they suckle for some time. These, when first brought forth, are about the size of a full-grown common seal.

THE LEONINE SEAL.

THE head and eyes of this animal are very large. The nose turns up; the ears are conical and erect; and the neck of the male is covered with long waved hair, somewhat like that of the lion. The hair of the other parts of the body is short and red: that of the female yellowish; but at a certain age they turn grey. A large male is said to measure from sixteen to eighteen feet in length, and to weigh about sixteen hundred pounds; but the females are considerably smaller.

If a human being appear among these animals they immediately run off; and when disturbed in sleep, they seem seized with horror, sigh deeply in their attempts to escape, fall into the utmost confusion, and shake so violently as scarcely to be able to use their limbs: but if they are reduced to an extremity, and find it impossible to effect an escape, they become desperate, and turn on their assailant with prodigious fury. When they find there is no intention to hurt them, their timidity entirely subsides. Steller, when he was on Bering's island, lived in a hovel surrounded by them, for six days. They were soon reconciled to him; and would observe, with great calmness, what he was doing; lie down near him; and even permit him to seize and play with their cubs. In this situation he had an opportunity of seeing several of their conflicts; and once

Indifference of the parents towards their young.

witnessed a duel between two males, which lasted three days, and in which one of them received above a hundred wounds. The Ursine seals which were among them never interfered, but always hastened out of the way of their battles.

Each male has from two to four females, which he treats with great kindness; and he seems very fond of their caresses; but it is a singular fact that neither of the parents exhibit much affection towards their young: for they frequently tread it to death through carelessness, and will even suffer it to be killed before them without concern. The cubs are not sportive, like most other young animals, but seem entirely stupified by much sleep. The parents take them into the water, and teach them to swim: and when they are tired they climb on the back of their dam; but the male often pushes them off, to habituate them to this exercise.

The old ones are said to bellow like bulls, and the young bleat like sheep. They subsist principally on fish, and several marine animals; but during two of the summer months the old males abstain almost entirely from eating, and indulge in sleep and indolence, swallowing at intervals large stones, to keep the stomach distended. At the expiration of this time they are excessively emaciated.

The Kamtschadales consider the chase of these animals as an occupation of the highest honour. When they find one of them asleep, they approach

Mode of killing seals in Kamtschatka.

it against the wind; strike a harpoon, fastened to a long cord, into its breast; and run off with the utmost precipitation. The other end of the cord being fastened to a stake, prevents the animal from running entirely off; and they principally effect his destruction by flinging their lances into him, or shooting him with arrows. Immediately he plunges into the sea; but, unable to bear the poignancy of his wounds in the salt water, returns to shore in the utmost agony. If a good opportunity offer, they transfix him with their lances; if not, they leave him to die of the poison. It is asserted on the most respectable authority, that these unenlightened people consider it so great a disgrace to leave any of their game behind, that they frequently overload their boats so much, as to send both their booty and themselves to the bottom.

These animals are found in great numbers on the eastern coasts of Kamtschatka, where they reside among the rocks. They do not migrate; but appear to have summer and winter stations. The flesh of the young is said to be excellent food, and their fat is as delicious as marrow.

THE WALRUS.

THIS animal is very inelegant in its appearance; having a small head, short neck, thick body, and short legs. The lips are very thick,

and the upper one is cleft, and furnished with several thick and semi-transparent bristles. The eyes are remarkably small; and instead of external ears, there are only two small circular orifices. In the upper jaw are two long tusks, bending downwards, and weighing from ten to thirty pounds each; which are used in scraping shell-fish and other prey out of the sand, and from the rocks. The skin is thick, and scattered over with short brownish hair. On each foot are five toes, connected by webs, and the hind feet are considerably broader than the others. The tail is extremely short. Some of these animals are said to be eighteen feet long, and ten or twelve in circumference.

The disposition of the walrus is perfectly in-offensive, except when attacked or irritated; in which case they become furious, and exceedingly vindictive. When surprised on the ice, the females first provide for the safety of their offspring, by flinging them into the sea, and conveying them to a secure distance; after which they return to revenge any injury they have received. They will sometimes attempt to fasten their teeth on the boats, in order to sink them, or will rise under them in great numbers, with the intention of oversetting them, at the same time roaring in a dreadful manner, and gnashing their teeth with great violence.

Instances have occurred of their attacking small boats, merely through wantonness, and of

Occasional attacks—Mutual attachment.

subjecting the people to great danger. In the year 1766 some of the crew of a sloop which sailed to the north, to trade with the Esquimaux, were attacked in their boat by a great number of walrusses; and, notwithstanding their utmost endeavours to keep them off, one more daring than the rest, got in over the stern, and after sitting and looking at the men some time, he again plunged into the water to his companions. At that instant, another of an enormous size was getting in over the bow; and, every other means proving ineffectual to prevent his intrusion, the bowman took up a gun, loaded with goose-shot, put the muzzle into the animal's mouth, and shot him dead. He immediately sunk and was followed by all his companions. The people then made the best of their way to the vessel, and just arrived before the creatures were ready to make a fresh attack, which, in all probability, would have been infinitely worse than the former, as they seemed greatly enraged at the loss of their companion.

Their mutual attachments are extremely strong; and they will make every effort in their power to set at liberty their harpooned companions. A wounded walrus has been known to sink to the bottom of the sea, rise suddenly again, and bring up with it multitudes of others, to attack the boat whence the insult came.

Towards the beginning of spring, these quadrupeds invariably visit the Magdalene Islands,

Taking of walruses on the Magdalene islands.

which seem particularly adapted to their wants; abounding in large shell-fish, and affording them a convenient landing. On their arrival they crawl up the sloping rocks of the coast in great numbers, and frequently remain for many days, when the weather is fair, without food; but on the first appearance of rain they retreat precipitately to the water. The inhabitants suffer them to come on shore, and amuse themselves for a considerable time, till they have acquired some degree of boldness; for, at first landing, they are so exceedingly timid as to suffer no one to approach them. At a proper time, the fishermen, taking advantage of a sea wind to prevent the animals from smelling them, and with the assistance of dogs, endeavour in the night to separate those that are the farthest advanced from those next the water, driving them different ways. This is called making a cut, and is generally accounted a very dangerous undertaking, since it is impossible to drive the animals in any particular direction, and often difficult to avoid them. The darkness of the night, however, deprives them of every direction to the water, so that they stray about, and are killed by the men at leisure, sometimes to the number of fifteen or sixteen hundred. They are then skinned, and the coat of fat that surrounds them is taken off, and dissolved into oil. The skin is cut into slices of two or three inches wide, and exported to England and America.

Captain Cook's description of a herd of walrusses.

The Greenlanders, on discovering a herd of walrusses upon the ice, approach in their boats, and fling their harpoons as the alarmed animals are tumbling themselves along the steep of the ice into the sea. They embrace this opportunity of killing them, as the animals distend their skins to roll with greater lightness and facility; and are consequently easier to hit than when they are at rest on the shore, and the skin is flaccid.

Captain Cook saw a herd of walrusses floating on a mass of ice off the northern part of the continent of America, of which he has given the following description: "They lie in herds of many hundreds, upon the ice, huddling over one another like swine; and roar or bray so very loud, that in the night, or in foggy weather, they gave us notice of the vicinity of the ice before we could see it. We never found the whole herd asleep, some being always upon the watch. These, on the approach of the boat, would rouse those next to them; and the alarm being gradually communicated, the whole herd would be awake presently. But they were seldom in a hurry to get away, till after they had been once fired at. They then would tumble over each other into the sea in the utmost confusion; and if we did not, at the first discharge, kill those we fired at, we generally lost them, though mortally wounded. They did not appear to us to be such dangerous animals as some authors have described; not even when attacked. They are rather

Attachment of the dam and her young.

more so in appearance than in reality. Vast numbers of them would follow and come close up to the boats; but the flash of a musket in the pan, or even the pointing one at them, would send them down in an instant. The female will defend the young to the very last, and at the expense of her own life, whether in the water, or upon the ice. Nor will the young one quit the dam, though she be dead; so that if one be killed, the other is certain prey. The dam, when in the water, holds the young one between her fore-fins."

The tusks of the walrus are used as an inferior sort of ivory; but the animals are principally esteemed for the sake of their oil; of which they produce from one to two barrels each. A very strong and elastic leather, may be also prepared from the skin; and in America it is commonly manufactured into carriage-traces.

These animals are only found in the northern seas; and particularly on the coasts of the Magdalene islands, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. They subsist entirely upon marine plants and shell-fish; though, when playing about in the water, they have been frequently observed to draw sea-fowl beneath the surface with their long tusks, and to throw them up into the air, by way of amusement.

CHAP. VI.

" Far diff'rent there from all that charm'd before,
The various terrors of that horrid shore;
Those blazing suns that shed a downward ray,
And fiercely shed intolerable day;
Those matted woods where birds forget to sing,
But silent *bats* in drowsy clusters cling."

GOLDSMITH.

THE BAT.

THIS singular creature differs from every other quadruped in being furnished with wings; and may indeed be considered as a connecting link in the chain of animal creation. Some naturalists have been doubtful in what class its station ought to be assigned; but as it is allied to the quadruped race both by its external and internal conformation, while its resemblance to the volatiles consists exclusively in the faculty of flying, it must indisputably belong to the former.

The common bat is somewhat less than a mouse, to which animal it bears a considerable resemblance in its general aspect, but its colour

Imperfect appearance—Management of the young.

is rather darker. Its wings are, in fact, only membranous webs, resembling thin leather, and extending from the fore feet to the tail. The eyes are remarkably small, and the ears exactly like those of a mouse. It has been justly observed, that the bat has at all times the appearance of an imperfect animal; for in walking its feet seem entangled by its wings, and it drags its body on the ground with great awkwardness; and its motions in the air are laboured and ill-directed; whence it has received the significant appellation of the Flitter-mouse.

The female produces two young at a time, which she suckles, and sometimes carries at her breast in her aerial excursions. Linnæus observes, that she makes no nest, as most animals do, previously to the time of parturition. On the contrary, she contents herself with the first hole she finds; where, sticking herself by her hooked claws against the sides of her apartment, she permits her offspring to hang at the nipple during the first or second day. At length when she finds it necessary to go out in quest of food, she takes her little ones off, and sticks them to the wall, in the manner she had previously suspended herself: where they patiently remain till her return. The young ones, are at first, destitute of down, and of a black colour.

Bats are nocturnal animals; sleeping during the day, and commencing their flight in the dusk of evening. They frequent the sides of woods

Tame bats.

and shady walks, and are frequently seen skimming along the surface of ponds or rivers in quest of insects. Towards the end of summer they retire into caves, ruinous buildings, or hollow trees, where they remain during the winter in a state of complete torpidity; most of the animal functions being so far suspended as scarcely to be perceptible.

The bat is capable of being tamed to a certain degree; and Mr. White informs us, that he was once much amused with the sight of a tame bat which would take flies out of a person's hand, and bring its wings round before the mouth, hovering and hiding its head in the manner of birds of prey when they feed. "The adroitness," says our author, "which it showed in shearing off the wings of the flies, which were always rejected, was worthy of observation, and pleased me much. Insects seemed to be most acceptable, though it did not refuse raw flesh when offered; so that the notion that bats go down chimneys, and gnaw people's bacon, seems no improbable story. While I amused myself with this wonderful quadruped, I saw it several times confute the vulgar opinion that bats, when down on a flat surface cannot get on the wing again, by rising with great ease from the floor. It ran, I observed, with more dispatch than I was aware of, but in a most ridiculous and grotesque manner.

From repeated experiments made by Spallanzani, on several varieties of these animals, it ap-

Singular faculty observable in the bat.

pears, that they possess some additional sense, which enables them, when deprived of sight, to avoid obstacles as readily as when they retained the power of vision. When their eyes were covered, or even put entirely out, they would fly about in a darkened chamber without ever hitting against the walls, and invariably suspend their flight with caution when they came to a place where they could perch. In the middle of a dark sewer, that turned at right angles, they would always, though at a considerable distance from the walls, regularly bend their flight with the greatest nicety. When branches of trees were suspended in a room, they cautiously avoided them; and flew betwixt threads hung perpendicularly from the ceiling, though these were so near each other, that it was necessary to contract their wings in passing through them. M. Jurin, in his *Journal de Physique* for 1798, supposes, that the sense which enables them to perform these unaccountable operations is lodged in the expanded nerves on the nose; but on that of the present, and several other species, the membrane in which these end is wanting. Some have imagined, however, that this power of avoiding obstacles in the dark is principally dependant on their ears; for when the auricles of the blinded bats were closed, they struck against the sides of the room, and seemed totally ignorant of their situation.

Long-eared bats—How taken.

Several long-eared bats were collected together for the purpose of the above experiments, and they were preserved in a box for more than a week. During the day-time they were extremely desirous of retirement and darkness, and, while confined to the box, never moved or endeavoured to get out while it was light; and, when spread on the carpet, they commonly rested for a few minutes, and then beginning to look about, crawled slowly to a dark corner or crevice. At sun-set, however, every one endeavoured to scratch its way out of the box; a continued chirping was kept up, and no sooner was the lid of the prison opened, than each was active to escape, either flying away immediately, or running nimbly to a convenient place for taking wing. When they were first taken, several of the females had young ones clinging to the breast in the act of sucking. One of them flew with perfect ease, though two little ones were thus attached to her, which weighed nearly as much as the parent.

These animals are sometimes caught by throwing into the air the heads of burdock whitened with flour. Either mistaking these for prey, or dashing casually against them, they are caught by the hooked prickles, and brought to the ground. They inhabit most of the countries of Europe, and are well known in England.

THE VAMPIRE BAT.

THIS animal, which M. Buffon has distinguished by the appellation of Roussete, is a formidable and dangerous creature, and the common pest of both men and animals in those countries where it abounds. It is in general about a foot long, and in the extent of its wings near four feet; but it is sometimes found larger, and specimens have been seen of six feet in extent.

The head is shaped like that of a fox; the nose is sharp and black; and the ears are naked, blackish, and pointed. The general colour of the body is a deep-reddish brown.

These bats are generally on the wing from sunset to sun-rise, and remain during the day in the hollow trees. They skim the water with perfect facility, in their sportive moods, and frequently dip into it to wash themselves. Several writers inform us that they swarm like bees, hanging near one another in vast clusters. At least five hundred of them were seen by Mr. Forster, hanging, some by their fore, and others by their hind legs, in a large tree, in one of the Friendly islands: and at Rose-Hill in New South Wales it is supposed, that upwards of twenty thousand were seen within the space of a mile. Finch observes, "they hang by the claws to the boughs of trees near Surat, in such vast clusters, and make so intolerable a noise, that it would be a

Dexterous phlebotomists.

good deed to bring two or three pieces of ordnance, and scour the trees, that the country might be rid of such a plague."

Dampier relates, that in one of the Philippine islands he saw an incredible number of bats, so large that none of his company could reach from tip to tip of their wings, with their arms extended to the utmost. The wings were of a mouse colour, and the joints were furnished with sharp crooked claws. At sun-set he says, these animals used to take their flight in swarms, like bees, to a neighbouring island; where they were seen to continue in immense numbers, till darkness rendered them no longer visible. The whole of the time from day-break in the morning till sun-rise, they occupied in returning to their former place; and this course they constantly pursued all the time the ship remained stationed off that island.

The vampyre bat is the most dexterous phlebotomist in nature; as it imperceptibly insinuates its aculeated tongue into a vein, and then sucks the blood till it is satiated; all the while fanning with its wings, and agitating the air in so pleasing a manner, as to throw the sufferer into a still sounder sleep. It is therefore extremely dangerous to sleep abroad in the countries where these animals are found; as persons attacked by it have sometimes been near passing from a sound slumber to their eternal repose.

Captain Stedman, during his stay at Surinam, was attacked in his sleep by a vampyre bat, as

Captain Stedman's account of the vampyre.

appears from the following extract. " On waking about four o'clock one morning in my hammock, I was extremely alarmed at finding myself weltering in congealed blood, without feeling any pain. Having started up, and rung for the surgeon, it appeared that I had been bitten by the vampyre, or spectre of Guiana, which is also called the flying dog of New Spain, and by the Spaniards perro-volador; this is no other than a bat, of a monstrous size, that sucks the blood from men and cattle while they are fast asleep, even sometimes till they die; and as the manner in which they proceed is truly wonderful, I shall endeavour to give a distinct account of it. Knowing, by instinct, that the person they intend to attack is in a sound slumber, they generally alight near the feet, where, while the creature continues fanning with his enormous wings, which keeps one cool, he bites a piece out of the tip of the great toe, so very small indeed, that the head of a pin could scarcely be received into the wound, which is consequently not painful; yet through this orifice he continues to suck the blood, until he is obliged to disgorge. He then begins again, and thus continues sucking and disgorging till he is scarcely able to fly, and the sufferer has often been known to sleep from time into eternity. Cattle they generally bite in the ear, but always in places where the blood flows spontaneously. Having applied tobacco ashes

Captain Stedman's account of the vampyre.

as the best remedy, and washed the gore from myself and my hammock, I observed several small heaps of congealed blood all round the place where I had lain, upon the ground; on examining which, the surgeon judged that I had lost at least twelve or fourteen ounces during the night."

The smell of these bats is more disagreeable than that of a fox: yet the Indians declare their flesh to be excellent food: and the French, who reside in the isle of Bourbon, boil them in their bouillon, to give it a relish! In New Caledonia the natives use the hair of these animals in making ropes, and the tassels of their clubs; interweaving it with the threads of *Cyperus squarrosus*.

These animals are found in several parts of India and in the Indian islands, in New South Wales, the Friendly Isles, and South America. They appear capable of being tamed; for some that were taken near Port Jackson, soon became reconciled to their captivity, and would even eat boiled rice and other food from the hand. Governor Philips had a female which would hang by one leg a whole day, and in that position, with its breast neatly covered by one of its wings, it would eat whatever was offered to it, lapping from the hand like a cat.

THE MOLE.

THE external appearance and singular habits of the mole are alone sufficient to distinguish it from all other animals; and its conformation is admirably adapted by the all-wise Creator to its peculiar mode of living. The body, which is generally between five and six inches in length, is thick and round, terminated by a very small and short tail. The snout is long and pointed, like that of a hog; the neck is so short, that the head seems stuck upon the shoulders; and the legs are so short, that the animal appears to lie flat upon its belly. The fore feet are quite naked, formed with large palms, almost like hands, and furnished with five toes each, terminated with strong nails: the hind feet are much smaller. The skin is covered with fine short hair, and is peculiarly sleek and glossy. The colour is generally black, but some have been found spotted with white, and instances have occurred, though very rarely, of their being seen altogether white.

The eyes of this animal are so minute, that many have doubted whether they were intended for distinct vision, or only to afford the animal so much sensibility of the approach of light as sufficiently to warn it of the danger of exposure. Dr. Derham, however, by the assistance of a microscope plainly discovered all the parts of the eye known in other animals. It has, also been

Curious habitations.

discovered that, for their better security, the eyes of the mole are furnished with muscles, by which they may be withdrawn or exerted at pleasure. The faculty of hearing is said to be possessed by the mole in a very eminent degree; and if at any time it emerges from its subterraneous retreat, it is by this means enabled instantly to disappear on the approach of danger.

The females produce four or five young at a time, generally about the month of April; and the habitations prepared for their accommodation are constructed with peculiar care and intelligence. The parent animals begin their operations by raising the earth and forming a pretty high arch. They leave partitions, or a kind of pillars, at certain distances; beat and press the earth; interweave it with the roots of plants; and render it so hard and solid, that the water cannot penetrate the vault, on account of its convexity and firmness. They then raise a small hillock under the principal arch; upon which they lay herbs and leaves as a bed for their young. In this situation they are above the level of the ground, and consequently beyond the reach of accidental inundations. They are at the same time defended from the rains by the large vault that covers the internal one, upon the summit of which last they rest along with their young. This internal hillock is perforated on all sides with sloping holes; which descend still lower, and serve as subterraneous passages for the mo-

Mole-hills—Mode of living.

ther to go out in quest of food for herself and her offspring. These bye-paths extend about twelve or fifteen feet, and issue from the principal mansion like rays from a centre.

It seldom forms its hole more than five or six inches under the surface. In the act of this, it scrapes the earth before it on one side, till the quantity becomes too great for it to labour onwards with facility: then works towards the surface; and by pushing with its head, and the assistance of its nervous paws, gradually raises the mould which incommodes it, and thus produces those small hills so common in our fields. After getting rid of the earth in this manner, it proceeds forwards, and resumes its labour; and the number of moles contained in a certain space of ground may be easily ascertained by counting the new-raised mole-hills, which have no communication with each other.

These animals live in pairs; and such is the warmth of their mutual attachment, that they seem to disrelish all other society. In their gloomy abodes they enjoy the placid habits of repose and of solitude; they also have the art of securing themselves from injury, of almost instantaneously making an asylum or habitation, and of obtaining a plentiful subsistence without the necessity of going abroad. They shut up the entrance to their retreats; and seldom leave them, unless compelled by the admission of wa-

Occasional removals—Ferocious disposition.

ter, or the accidental demolition of their mansions.

Moles are principally found in grounds where the soil is loose and soft, and affording the greatest quantity of worms and insects. During the summer they descend to the low hillocks and flat land; and particularly make choice of meadows for the place of their residence. If the weather continue long dry, they remove to the banks of rivers, the borders of ditches, or some place contiguous to hedges. They exhibit a considerable degree of art in skinning worms, which they always do before they eat them; but in searching for these by night they are themselves frequently attacked and devoured by owls.

When moles are first taken, either by digging or otherwise, they utter a shrill cry, and prepare for their defence by exerting the strength of their claws and teeth. They are said to be very ferocious animals; and however contented they may be together underground, yet when above the surface they will sometimes tear and eat one another. In a glass case, in which a mole, a toad, and a viper were inclosed, the mole has been known to kill the other two, and to devour a considerable part of each.

In the third volume of the Linnæan Transactions, the following curious fact is related by Mr. Bruce. "On visiting the Loch of Clunie, which I often did, I observed in it a small island at the

distance of a hundred and eighty yards from the nearest land, to be so upon the ice. Upon the island, Lord Airly, the proprietor, has a castle and a small shrubbery. I frequently remarked the appearance of fresh mole-casts or hills. I for some time took it to be the water-mouse; and one day asked the gardener if it were so. No, he said, it was the mole; and that he had caught one or two lately. Five or six years ago he caught two in traps; and for two years after this he had observed none. But about four years ago, coming ashore one summer's evening in the dusk, he and Lord Airly's butler saw, at a short distance, upon the smooth water, some animals paddling to, and not far distant from the island. They soon closed with this feeble passenger: and found it to be a common mole; led by a most astonishing instinct, from the nearest point of land (the Castle-hill), to take possession of this desert island. It had been, at the time of my visit, for the space of two years quite free from any subterraneous inhabitant; but the mole has for more than a year past, made its appearance again, and its operations I have since been witness to." The depth of water in the lake is from six to ten, fifteen, and, in some parts, thirty or forty feet, all round the island.

The mischief occasioned by these little animals in fields and gardens is almost incredible. M. de Buffon, in the year 1740, planted about sixteen acres of land with acorns, the greater part of

Depredations.

which was soon carried off by the moles to their subterraneous retreats. In many of these were found half a bushel, and in some even a bushel. After this circumstance, our author caused a great number of iron traps to be constructed; by which, in less than three weeks, he caught thirteen hundred moles. And in the year 1742 they were so numerous in some parts of Holland, that one farmer caught between five and six thousand. Their depredations were, also, so formidable in the time of the ancients, that a temple was erected to Apollo Smynthius, the destroyer of moles.

Some authors have asserted, that the mole passes the winter in a state of torpidity; the Comte de Buffon, however, observes, that this is so far from being the case, that it continues to raise the earth in winter as well as in summer, and it is almost proverbial with the peasantry of France, that, "when the mole is at work, a thaw it at hand." These animals are, indeed, fond of warm places, and the gardeners frequently catch them round their beds, in the months of December; January, and February.

The following description of the habitations of moles, and an account of the methods in which they are to be taken, cannot fail of proving acceptable to the reader. "The moles," says Dr. Darwin, in his *Phytologia*, "have cities under ground; which consist of houses, or nests, where they breed and nurse their young. Communi-

cating with these are wider and more frequented streets, made by the perpetual journeys of the male and female parents: as well as many other less frequented alleys or bye-roads, with many diverging branches, which they daily extend to collect food for themselves or their progeny.

“ These animals are most active in the vernal months, during the time of their courtship; and many more burrows are at this time made in the earth for their meeting with each other. And though they are commonly esteemed to be blind, yet they appear to have some perception of light, even in their subterraneous habitations; because they begin their work as soon as it is light, and consequently before the warmth of the sun can be supposed to affect them.---Hence one method of destroying them consists in attending to them early, before sunrise; at that time the earth or the grass may frequently be seen to move over them; and with a small light spade their retreat may be cut off, by striking it into the ground behind them, and they may be immediately dug up.

“ The mole suckles four or five, and sometimes six young ones; which are placed considerably deeper in the ground than the common runs; and the mole-hills near them are consequently larger, and generally of a different colour. These nests are to be dug up; having first intercepted the road between them and the mole-hills in the vicinity, to cut off the retreat of the inhabitants.

Methods of taking moles.

“ The next important circumstance is, to discover which are the frequented streets, and which the bye-roads; for the purpose of setting subterraneous traps. This is effected by making a mark on every new mole-hill, by a light pressure of the foot; and the next morning, observing whether a mole has again passed that way, and obliterated the foot-mark. This is to be done for two or three successive mornings. These foot-marks should not be deeply impressed; lest the animal be alarmed on his return, and thus induced to form a new branch of road rather than open the obstructed one.

“ The traps are then to be set in the frequented streets, so as to fit nicely the divided canal. They consist of a hollow semi-cylinder of wood; with grooved rings at each end, in which are placed nooses of horsehair, fastened loosely by a peg in the centre, and stretched above ground by a bent stick. When the mole has passed half way through one of the nooses, and removes the central peg, in his progression, the back stick rises by its elasticity, and strangles him.”

Agricola informs us that he has seen the finest and most beautiful hats made of the skins of the mole; and Mr. Bewick states, in his entertaining *History of Quadrupeds*, that a “ Mr. Burn, hatter, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, has recently discovered a method whereby the exquisitely fine fur of this hitherto despised animal is

likely to become of public importance and utility. By incorporating it with other materials it forms a stamen of peculiar strength and beauty, for the purpose of making hats superior to any that have hitherto been made use of in that branch of manufacture, and for which he has obtained a royal patent."

There are several varieties of these animals; the principal of which are, the Siberian mole, of a beautiful green and gold colour, variable with the light;---the Virginian mole, of a black colour mingled with deep purple;---and the radiated mole of North America; so called from the circumstance of its nose being curiously beset with radiated tendrils.

THE SLOTH.

THE general appearance of this animal is extremely uncouth. The body is thick, the fore-legs are short, the hinder ones considerably longer. The feet are very small, but armed with strong hooked claws, which enable the animal to climb trees, where its voracity leads it to devour both the fruit and leaves. The head is small, and the face short and naked. The eyes are small, black, and languid; and the whole countenance is strongly expressive of misery. The hair on the top of the head projects over, and gives to the animal a very peculiar and gro-

tesque physiognomy. Its general colour is a greyish brown, and the hair is long and coarse, covering the body, particularly about the back and thighs, very thickly.

The female produces one young one, which she occasionally carries on her back.

There are two varieties of this animal, which, however, are principally distinguished by the number of their claws; the one having three long claws on each foot, while the other has only two. Of the former species, called the ai, a curious account has been given by Kircher, principally from the authority of a provincial of the Jesuits, in South America, who had several of these animals in his possession, and tried various experiments with them relative to their nature and properties. According to this author, the animal is about the size of a cat, has a very ugly countenance, and has its claws extended like fingers. It sweeps the ground with its belly, and moves so slowly that it would scarcely go the length of a bow-shot in fifteen days, though constantly in motion; hence it obtained the name of sloth. It resides chiefly on the tops of trees, and employs two days in crawling up, and as many in getting down again. Nature has doubly guarded it against its enemies; first, by giving it such strength in its feet, that whatever it seizes, it holds so fast, that it will not suffer itself to be freed, but must die of hunger: Secondly, in having given it such an affecting countenance,

that when it looks at any one who might be tempted to injure it, it is almost impossible not to be moved with compassion; it also sheds tears, and upon the whole persuades one that a creature so abject and defenceless ought not to be tormented.

To try an experiment with this animal, the provincial had one of them brought to the Jesuit's College at Carthagena. He put a long pole under its feet, which it seized very firmly, and would not let go again. The animal, therefore, thus voluntarily suspended, was placed between two beams, where it remained without food for forty days, its eyes being always fixed on those who looked at it, who were so affected that they could not forbear pitying its dejected state. At length, being taken down, a dog was let loose on it: but this, after a while, the sloth seized in its claws, and held till both died of hunger.

In ascending a tree, the sloth carelessly stretches one of its paws, and fixes its long claw as high as it can reach. It then heavily raises the body, and gradually fixes the other paw: and in this manner continues to climb, each motion being remarkably slow and languid. When it has got possession of a tree, it will not descend while a leaf or bud is remaining; and it is asserted, that in order to obviate the necessity of a slow and laborious descent, it suffers itself to fall to the ground; the toughness of its skin, and

Slowness of motion—Plaintive cry.

the thickness of its hair, securing it from any unpleasant effect in its fall. Buffon remarks, that these creatures will sometimes suspend themselves by their claws from the branches of trees, and thus hanging, a branch may be cut off, and they will fall with it rather than quit their hold. One that was taken by some mariners, and carried on board their vessel, climbed from the lower part of the mizen-shrouds to the mast-head: occupying two hours, in what a monkey would have performed in less than half a minute.

These animals are always most active during the night, when they utter a plaintive cry, which seems to ascend and descend through six successive musical intervals. Woodes Rogers observes, that when the Spaniards first arrived in America, and heard this unusual noise, they imagined they were near some nation, the people of which had been instructed in European music.

When in a state of confinement the sloth never rests on the ground, but always climbs on some post or door to repose. If a pole be held out to it, when on the ground, it will immediately lay hold, climb to the top, and firmly adhere to it.

THE PORCUPINE.

THIS animal generally measures about two feet and a half from the head to the end of the tail. The upper parts of the body are covered with hard and sharp spines, some of which are from nine to fifteen inches in length. These are variegated with alternate black and white rings; and as some of them are very slightly attached to the skin, they easily fall off. They are formed of complete quills, wanting only the vane to be real feathers. The animal has the power of elevating or depressing them at will; and when he walks, they make a rattling noise, by striking against each other. The head, belly, and legs, are covered with strong dusky bristles, intermixed with softer hairs: on the top of the head, these are very long; and curved backwards, in the manner of a ruff or crest.

The porcupine generally inhabits subterraneous retreats; which it forms into several compartments; leaving two holes, one for an entrance, and the other, in case of necessity, to escape by. It sleeps during the day time, and at the approach of night makes its excursions in quest of fruits, roots, and other vegetable food. Although able to support hunger for a great length of time, and apparently without inconvenience, it always eats with a voracious appetite. In the vicinity of the Cape of Good Hope, these creatures do much

Inoffensive manners.

damage to the gardens. But as they always enter by one aperture so long as it continues open; the inhabitants have often an opportunity of destroying them. When a breach is discovered, they place a loaded gun in such a manner that the muzzle will be near the animal's breast when he is devouring a carrot or turnip, that is connected by a string with the trigger.

In its manners, the porcupine is perfectly harmless and inoffensive, never itself becoming the aggressor; and, when pursued, it climbs the first tree it can reach, where it remains till the patience of its adversary is exhausted. In a state of confinement, it will eat bread or roots out of the keeper's hand, and suffer him to lead it about by a string. One that was in the royal menagerie of the Tower, would even allow its keeper to take it up under his arm; but in order to do this safely, it was necessary to close the quills to the animal's body, by the man sweeping his arm along the direction in which they grew. This quadruped died in 1802; but is now stuffed, and in the possession of the keeper.

The late Sir Ashton Lever had one of these animals which he frequently turned out on the grass behind his house, to play with a tame hunting leopard, and a large Newfoundland dog. As soon as they were let loose, the leopard and dog began to pursue the porcupine, who always at first endeavoured to escape by flight: but, on

Mode of defence—The quills poisonous.

finding that ineffectual, he would thrust his head into some corner, making a grunting noise, and erecting his spines; with which his pursuers pricked their noses, till they quarrelled between themselves, and thus enabled him to escape.

When irritated or offended, the porcupine stamps forcibly on the ground with its hind-feet; and sometimes turns round and runs back upon the offender, at the same time exerting its grunting voice, and shaking the quills about its tail. The usual method of defence, however, adopted by these animals, is to recline themselves on one side; and, on the approach of their enemy, to rise up quickly, and gore him with the erected prickles of their other side. It is also asserted, that when the porcupine meets with serpents, against whom he carries on a perpetual war, he closes himself up like a ball, concealing his head and feet, and then rolls upon and kills them with his bristles, without running any risk of being wounded himself.

The quills of the porcupine seem to possess some poisonous quality; for M. Le Vaillant observes, that one of his Hottentots, who had received a wound in the leg from a porcupine, was ill for more than six months; and that a gentleman, at the Cape, in teasing one of these animals, received a wound in his leg, which nearly occasioned his loss of the limb; and notwithstanding every possible care, he suffered severely

Casting their quills—Bezoar stones.

from it for above four months, during one of which he was confined to his bed.

When moulting, or casting their quills, these animals sometimes shake them off with such force, that they will fly to the distance of several yards, and even bend their points against any hard substance they happen to strike. This circumstance may probably have given rise to the report of its darting its quills against an enemy. Professor Thunberg, in his *Second Voyage to the Island Matura*, in the Indian ocean, informs us, that the porcupine has a very curious method of fetching water for its young. The quills in the tail are said to be hollow, and to have a hole at the extremity. These the animal can bend in such a manner, that they can be filled with water, which is afterwards discharged in the nest among the young.

Their stomachs are frequently found to contain bezoar stones. These are composed of a very fine hair, which has concreted with the juices of the stomach: they have one layer over another, so that they consist of several rings of different colours. Professor Thunberg describes them as of the size of a hen's egg, and generally blunt at one end; but one that he saw was as large as a goose's egg, perfectly globular, and of a brown colour.

The female produces one or two at a birth, which she suckles about a month. These she defends with the utmost resolution against all

Uses to which the quills are applied.

assailants, and will rather be killed than suffer them to be taken from her.

The flesh of the porcupine is said to be excellent eating, and is frequently served up at the first tables in the Cape of Good Hope; and the quills are used by the Indians, to adorn many articles; the neatness and elegance of which would not disgrace more enlightened artists. They dye them of various beautiful colours, cut them into slips, and embroider with them their baskets, belts, &c. in a great variety of ornamental figures.

These animals inhabit India, Persia, Palestine, and the Indian islands. They are likewise common in all parts of Africa, and are sometimes found in Italy and Sicily.

THE HEDGEHOG.

THIS animal at first sight seems to bear a near resemblance to the porcupine; but, on examination, it is found to differ materially, both in the structure of its teeth, and the shortness of its spines or quills. The length of the animal varies from six to ten inches; the head, back, and sides are covered with spines; but the nose, breast, and belly are clothed with fine soft hair. The legs are short, and almost bare; the toes on each foot are five in number, long, and separated; and the tail, which is about an inch long,

Manners of the hedgehog.

is so concealed by the spines, as to be scarcely visible. They generally reside in small thickets; and feed on fallen fruits, roots, and insects; they are also very fond of flesh-meat, either raw or roasted. They chiefly wander about by night, and during the day lie concealed in their holes.

Mr. White observes, that the manner in which the hedgehogs eat the roots of the plantain in his grass-walks is very curious. With their upper jaw, which is much longer than the lower, they bore under the plant; and gnaw the root off upwards, leaving the tuft of leaves untouched. In this respect they are serviceable, as they destroy a very troublesome weed; but the small round holes which they make in some measure deface the walks.

It has been alledged, that if these animals can obtain admission to a garden, they will mount the trees, and descend with pears, apples, or plums, stuck upon their bristles. M. de Buffon, however, who kept them tame about his premises acquits them of this charge. "I permitted several of them," says he, "to go about my garden, they did very little damage, and it was scarcely perceivable that they were there." They are also undeservedly accused of sucking cattle and injuring their udders; for the smallness of their mouths renders this altogether impossible.

The hedgehog has a very singular method of defending itself from the attacks of other animals. Nature having bestowed on him but little strength

Mode of defence.

or agility, he neither attempts to flee from, nor to assail his enemies; but erects his bristles, and rolls himself up like a ball, exposing no part of his body that is not covered with these sharp weapons. He will not unfold himself unless thrown into water; and the more he is frightened or harassed, the closer he shuts himself up. While in this state, most dogs, instead of biting him, stand at a distance and bark, not daring to seize him; and, if they attempt it once, their mouths are so pricked with his bristles, that it is with difficulty they can be prevailed upon to do it a second time. He is easily taken; for he neither attempts to flee, nor to defend himself by any other means than this. Thus, after spending some time in empty menaces, they leave the hedgehog where they found him; who, perceiving the danger past, at length peeps out from his ball, and, if not interrupted, creeps slowly to his retreat.

The hedgehog may be in some degree domesticated, and has been frequently introduced into houses for the purpose of expelling those troublesome insects the cock-roaches, which it pursues with avidity. Among the Calmuc Tartars these animals supply the place of cats; and we are told of a hedgehog formerly in the possession of an innkeeper, in Northumberland, which ran about the house with the utmost familiarity, and even performed the duty of a turn-spit as well as the dog of that denomination. M. Buffon, how-

Mischievous tricks.

ever, accuses them of tricks, of which, from their form and habits one would scarcely suspect them. "I have often," says he, "had the female and her young brought me about the beginning of June; and being desirous of rearing some of them, I put them into a tub, with an abundant supply of provisions: but the old animal, instead of suckling her offspring, devoured them all, one after another. On another occasion, a hedgehog that had made its way into the kitchen, discovered a little pot, in which there was meat prepared for boiling; the mischievous animal drew out the meat, and left its excrement in the stead."

During the winter the hedgehog wraps itself up in a warm nest of moss, dried grass, and leaves; and sleeps out the rigours of that season. It is sometimes found so completely enveloped with herbage, that it resembles a ball of dried leaves; but when taken out, and placed before a fire, it soon recovers from its state of torpidity. It produces from three to five young ones at a birth; which at first are white, and exhibit only the marks of this species, with which, however, they are soon covered like the parent animal.

Besides the common hedgehog already described, there are six species, but none of them found in Europe. The Guiana hedgehog has its spines shorter, thicker, and stronger than the former; is of a very pale colour; and has not the least appearance of external ears. The hedgehog of Siberia has long, oval, naked ears,

Varieties of the hedgehog.

edged with brown, and the nostrils are crested. The Malacca hedgehog is distinguished by its long spines, and long pendulous ears. The Tendraç is about the size of a rat, covered with short small spines, except on the nose and belly, which are clothed with a kind of fine hair, of a whitish colour. And the Tanrec of Madagascar has five longitudinal bands of black and white on the body; the black parts being covered with bristly hair, and the white parts with spines. The Tendraç and the Tanrec are generally very fat, and their flesh, though stringy and insipid, is often eaten by the Indians.

THE COMMON WEASEL.

THE length of this active little animal is about seven inches, from the nose to the insertion of the tail, and its height, not above two inches and a half. The prevailing colour on the back, sides, and legs, is a pale reddish-brown; but the breast and belly are white; and on each side, below the corners of the mouth, is a brown spot. The ears are small and rounded, and the mouth is furnished with whiskers, like those of a cat. When asleep, the muscles are in such a state of flaccidity, that the animal may be taken up by the head, and swung backwards and forwards like a pendulum, before it will awake. It lives chiefly in cavities under the roots of trees, and

Curious mode of sucking eggs.

in the banks of rivulets, whence it sallies towards evening in quest of prey.

The weasel is of great utility to the farmer, in ridding him of rats and mice, and frequently destroys the moles in their subterraneous habitations: but it is also very destructive to young birds, poultry, pigeons, rabbits, and several other animals; and sucks eggs with great avidity. In this latter operation, it begins by making a small hole at one end, from which it licks out the yolk, leaving the shell behind; whereas rats and some other animals drag the egg out of the nest, and either make a large hole in it or break it to pieces. By this circumstance the attacks of the weasel may always be distinguished. It is said, that the hare is terrified into a state of imbecility at the sight of this little animal, and gives itself up without the least resistance; making, at the same time, the most piteous outcries.

Weasels are naturally so wild and untractable that M. de Buffon supposed them to be perfectly untameable; but instances are not wanting to prove that it may be brought into complete subjection. Mademoiselle de Laistre, in a letter on this subject, gives a very pleasing account of the education and manners of a weasel which she took under her protection, and which frequently ate from her hand, seemingly more delighted with this manner of feeding than any other "If I pour," says this lady, "some milk into my hand, it will drink a good deal; but if I do not

pay it this compliment, it will scarcely take a drop. When satisfied, it generally goes to sleep. My chamber is the place of its residence; and I have found a method of dispelling its strong smell by perfumes. By day it sleeps in a quilt, into which it gets by an unsown place which it had discovered on the edge; during the night, it is kept in a wired box or cage; which it always enters with reluctance, and leaves with pleasure. If it be set at liberty before my time of rising, after a thousand little playful tricks, it gets into my bed, and goes to sleep in my hand or on my bosom. If I am up first, it spends a full half-hour in caressing me; playing with my fingers like a little dog, jumping on my head and on my neck, and running round on my arms and body with a lightness and elegance which I never found in any other animal. If I present my hands at the distance of three feet, it jumps into them without ever missing. It shows a great deal of address and cunning in order to compass its ends, and seems to disobey certain prohibitions merely through caprice. During all its actions, it seems solicitous to divert, and to be noticed; looking, at every jump, and at every turn, to see whether it be observed or not. If no notice be taken of its gambols, it ceases them immediately, and betakes itself to sleep; and even when awaked from the soundest sleep it instantly resumes its gaiety, and frolics about in as sprightly a manner as before. It never shows any ill-hu-

mour, unless when confined, or teased too much; in which case it expresses its displeasure by a sort of murmur, very different from that which it utters when pleased.

“ In the midst of twenty people, this little animal distinguishes my voice, seeks me out, and springs over every body to come at me. His play with me is the most lively and caressing; with his two little paws he pats me on the chin, with an air and manner expressive of delight. This, and a thousand other preferences, show that his attachment is real. When he sees me dressed for going out, he will not leave me, and it is not without some trouble that I can disengage myself from him; he then hides himself behind a cabinet near the door, and jumps upon me as I pass, with so much celerity that I often can scarcely perceive him.

“ He seems to resemble a squirrel in vivacity, agility, voice, and his manner of murmuring. During the summer, he squeaks and runs about all night long; but since the commencement of the cold weather, I have not observed this. Sometimes, when the sun shines while he is playing on the bed, he turns and tumbles about and murmurs for a while.

“ From his delight in drinking milk out of my hand, into which I pour a very little at a time, and his custom of sipping the little drops and edges of the fluid, it seems probable that he drinks dew in the same manner. He very sel-

dom drinks water, and then only for want of milk; and with great caution, seeming only to refresh his tongue once or twice, and to be even afraid of that fluid. During the hot weather, it rained a good deal. I presented to him some rain water in a dish, and endeavoured to make him go into it, but could not succeed. I then wetted a piece of linen cloth in it, and put it near him; when he rolled upon it with extreme delight.

“ One singularity in this charming animal is his curiosity; it being impossible to open a drawer or a box, or even to look at a paper, but he will examine it also. If he get into any place where I am afraid of permitting him to stay, I take a paper or a book, and look attentively at it; when he immediately runs upon my hand, and surveys with an inquisitive air whatever I happen to hold. I must further observe, that he plays with a young cat and dog, both of some size; getting about their necks and paws, without their doing him the least injury.”

The usual method of taming these creatures is, to stroke them gently over the back; and to threaten, and even to beat them, when they attempt to bite. Aldrovandus observes, that their teeth should be rubbed with garlic, which will take away all their inclination to bite.

The motion of these animals consists of unequal leaps; and, on occasion, they have the

The bite of the weasel fatal.

power of springing some feet from the ground. They are remarkably active; and will run up a wall with such facility, that no place is secure from them. Their bite is generally fatal; as they seize their prey near the head, and fix their sharp teeth into a vital part. The wound is so minute that the place where the teeth enter is hardly perceptible; but a hare, rabbit, or other small animal, bitten in this manner, is never known to recover.

We are told, that an eagle, having seized a weasel, mounted into the air with it, and was soon after observed to be in great distress. His little enemy had so far extricated itself, as to be able to bite him very severely in the neck; which presently brought the bird to the ground, and gave the weasel an opportunity of escaping.

The weasel has a strong predilection for every thing putrescent. M. de Buffon informs us that, in his neighbourhood, a female and three young ones were taken out of the body of a wolf, that had been suspended from a tree by the hind-feet. The wolf was almost entirely putrefied, and the weasel had made her nest in the thorax.

These animals are well known in England, and are found in all the temperate parts of Europe; but in the black northern climates they are seldom seen. The female brings forth in the spring, and generally produces four or five at a litter. For these she prepares a bed of moss, leaves, and

herbage; and when apprehensive of their safety she carries them in her mouth from place to place till she find a secure asylum.

THE HONEY-WEASEL.

THE honey-weasel is about two feet in length, from the nose to the tail. The back is ash-coloured; the sides are marked with a light-grey stripe, and the belly is black. The legs are short; and the claws formed for burrowing. It lives in holes under ground, and is so extremely fetid, that M. de Caille has given it the appellation of the stinking badger.

This animal seems formed by nature to be the adversary of the bees, and the unwelcome visitor of their habitations; being endued with a particular faculty of discovering and attacking them within their entrenchments. He is said to be particularly attentive to his business about sunset; when he will sit and hold one of his paws before his eyes, in order to modify the rays of the sun, and at the same time to procure a distinct view of the object of his pursuit: and when, in consequence of peering in this manner on each side of his paw, opposite to the sun, he perceives any bees on the wing, he knows that they are going straight to their habitation, and consequently takes care to keep in the same direction in order to find them. He has, besides, the

Singular properties of the hide.

sagacity to follow a little bird, called the honey-guide, which flies on slowly, with a peculiar and alluring note, and guides him to the place where the swarm of bees have taken up their abode.

Those bees' nests that are built in trees are perfectly secure from the depredations of this animal; but in the first transports of rage and disappointment, he gnaws and bites the trunks of the trees; and the marks he leaves behind him are certain indications to the inhabitants of the country that honey is to be found there.

The hide of this quadruped is so extremely tough and thick, that it is almost impossible to deprive it of life, without giving it a great number of violent blows on the nose; on which account the Hottentots usually shoot it, or plunge a knife into its body. The shortness of the creature's legs will not permit him to make his escape by flight, when pursued by hounds; but he frequently extricates himself from their clutches, by biting and scratching them in a most terrible manner: while, on the other hand, he is perfectly well defended from the assaults of their teeth, by the looseness of his skin; for, when a hound endeavours to bite him, it can lay hold only on this part, which instantly separates from the creature's body or flesh; so that, when any one also catches hold of him by the hind part of his neck, and that even pretty near his head, he can turn round, as it were, in his skin, and bite the arm that seizes him. It is said, that such a

Description.

number of hounds as are able collectively to tear in pieces a lion of moderate size, are sometimes obliged to leave the honey-weasel dead in appearance only. It is therefore probable, that nature, which seems to have destined this creature for the destruction of bees, may have bestowed on it a hide so much tougher than those she has given to other animals of the weasel kind, for the purpose of defending it from the stings of those insects.

It is an inhabitant of Africa, and principally found about the Cape of Good Hope.

THE CIVET.

THIS animal is somewhat more than two feet in length, exclusive of the tail, which is about half the length of its body. The hair is coarse; and, along the back, stands up, so as to form a sort of mane. The colour is a yellowish grey, diversified with dusky spots. Three black stripes proceed from each ear, and terminate at the throat and shoulders.

It feeds on small animals; particularly on birds, which it takes by surprise; and when it can steal unperceived into a farm-yard, it commits serious depredations among the poultry. It is naturally voracious; and will sometimes roll itself for a minute or two, on its meat, before eating. One that Barbot had at Guadaloupe

Mode of obtaining the drug called civet.

was, from the carelessness of his servant, kept without food for a whole day; on the following morning the animal gnawed his way through the cage in which he was kept, came into the room where M. Barbot was writing, and, after gazing about for a few seconds, made a leap of five or six feet at a fine American parrot, that was perched on a piece of wood put into the wall; tore off its head, and began to feast on his prey.

The drug called civet, is produced by this animal. It is a secretion, formed in a large double glandular receptacle, situated at some little distance beneath the tail, and which the creature empties spontaneously. The Dutch keep great numbers alive at Amsterdam, for the purpose of collecting the drug from them. When a sufficient time for the secretion has been allowed, the animal is put into a long wooden cage, so narrow that it cannot turn itself round. The cage being opened by a door behind, a small spoon, or spatula, is introduced through the orifice of the pouch, which is carefully scraped and its contents put into a proper vessel. This operation is performed twice or thrice a-week; and the animal is said always to produce the greatest quantity of civet when in a state of irritation. The substance is accounted best when of a whitish colour, a good consistence, and a strong disagreeable smell.

The inhabitants of Dar Fur, in Africa, have a singular mode of increasing the produce of the

Description.

civet. They introduce into the bag a small quantity of butter, or other fat; then shake the animal violently, and by beating, irritate it as much as possible. This, they say, greatly accelerates the secretion; and the fat also by these means imbibes so much of the perfume, that the women use it upon their hair.

Though naturally ferocious, the civet is capable of being tamed, and rendered tolerably familiar. In a state of confinement its favourite food consists of boiled meat, eggs, birds, and fish. It sleeps with its body rolled round, and seldom changes its posture either in the day or night.

THE MARTIN.

THIS animal is the most beautiful of all the weasel tribe. It is about eighteen inches in length, exclusive of the tail, which generally measures ten inches. The head is small and elegantly formed; the ears are broad, rounded, and open; and the eyes remarkably lively. The body is covered with a thick fur, of a dark brown colour; the head brown, mingled with red; the throat and breast are white, and the belly is of the same colour with the back, but rather paler; the claws are sharp, and admirably adapted for climbing.

The martin lives wholly in woods, or forests; and its general retreat is in the hollow of some

Remarkable courage—A tame martin.

tree; so high up, and in other respects so situated, as to afford it perfect security. The nest of the squirrel is generally preferred: of this the martin dispossesses the ingenious architect by killing him; and then enlarges the dimensions of its new habitation, and lines it with softer materials; for the reception of its young.

The courage of this animal is so great, that it will attack animals considerably larger and stronger than itself. It sometimes seizes lambs and hares: and, if necessity oblige, will even combat the fury of the wild cat; which, though much stronger, is always defeated, and often killed. Notwithstanding this fierce disposition, however, it seems capable of being rendered docile: for Gessner informs us, that he kept one, which was extremely frolicsome and entertaining. It was particularly attached to a dog with which it had been bred up; and would play with him as cats do, lying on its back, and pretending to bite. It also used to visit the houses in the neighbourhood, and regularly returned home when it wanted food. The Comte de Buffon had one which had lost its native ferocity, but did not discover any marks of attachment, and continued so wild as to require being chained. The flexibility of its body frequently enabled it to elude its fetters, and to indulge its propensity to rambling: at first it returned after some hours absence, but without appearing pleased; the time of absence of each succeeding elopement

Odour, food, &c.

gradually increased, and at last it took a final departure. During its confinement, it sometimes slept for two days without intermission. When preparing for sleep, it formed its body into a circle; and hid its head, which it covered with its tail.

The martin has a musky smell, which many persons deem agreeable; it being perfectly free from that rankness which is so disgusting in other animals of this tribe. Its cry is sharp and piercing; but is never uttered except when in pain or distress. Its principal food consists of rats, mice, and other small quadrupeds; also poultry and game; and it is remarkably fond of honey.

The female produces three or four young, which she feeds with eggs and live birds, and thus early accustoms them to a life of carnage and depredation. As soon as the young are able to leave the nest, she leads them through the woods; where they begin to provide for themselves.

Martins are hunted in the North for the sake of their furs, which are held in great estimation, and form a considerable article of commerce.

THE SABLE.

THIS lively and active animal is about eighteen inches in length; and has a longish and rather sharpened head. Its general colour is a

Methods of taking the sable.

deep glossy brown ; and the fur is different from all others, in the hair turning either way with equal facility. It frequents the banks of rivers and the deepest recesses of the woods ; generally making their nest under ground, or in the hollows of trees. During the summer they regale on the flesh of birds, squirrels, hares, &c. but in winter they principally subsist on berries. The female brings forth in the spring, and generally produces from three to five at a time.

The natives of Kamtschatka have a very simple method of taking these animals. They follow the track of the sable in snow-shoes, till they have discovered his retreat, which is generally a burrow in the earth. As soon as the little creature is aware of his pursuers, he escapes into some hollow tree ; which the hunters surround with a net, and then either cut it down, or force the animal by fire and smoke to abandon his retreat, when he falls into the net and is killed. They sometimes surround the tree in which a sable is lodged, with dogs trained for the purpose ; and then, making a running noose on a cord, contrive to get the creature's head into the snare, by which means he becomes an easy prey.

Another contrivance is the sable-trap of the Vogules, which is used in several parts of Siberia. A place is found where two young trees stand not far asunder. These are immediately stripped of their branches about the bottom ; and near

one of them a post is stuck into the ground, on which a beam is placed horizontally, so fastened to both trees, that one end of it lies between the post and the tree. Over this beam another is laid as a trap-fall; at the end of which a thin support is put, which, when the trap-fall is up, stands over the notched end of the post. At the extremity of the support is a mat-string, and another at the lower transverse beam, tied very short. Both are brought together; and a stick is put through them, having at its lower end a piece of flesh or wild-fowl attached; which, by its preponderance, keeps the stick down, and thus holds the two strings together. The sable creeps cautiously along the lower beam, till he can reach the bait, and pull it to him; this loosens the stick by which the strings were held together; the stay slips its hold, and consequently the upper beam falls upon the shoulders of the animal and holds him fast.

The season of hunting is from November to February; for at that time the sables are in the highest perfection. Their skin is more valuable than that of any other animal, a single one having sometimes sold for ten or even fifteen pounds. The bellies of sables, which are sold in Paris, are about two fingers in breadth, and are tied together in bundles of forty pieces. The tails are sold by the hundred.

Instances have occurred of these animals being, in some measure, domesticated. M. Gmelin

Description, &c.

saw two of them, which, on perceiving a cat, would rise on their hind feet to prepare for a combat. During the night they were remarkably active and lively; but in the day, and particularly after eating, they slept so sound, that they might be pushed and shaken violently without disturbing their repose.

Sables are principally found in North America, Siberia, Kamtschatka, and Asiatic Russia.

THE ICHNEUMON.

THIS animal is, in general, about the size of a common cat, but somewhat longer in the body, and shorter in the legs. The eyes are of a bright red; the ears almost naked, small, and rounded; and the nose long and slender. The tail is very thick at the base; whence it gradually tapers to almost a point, where it is slightly tufted. The colour is a pale reddish grey, each hair being mottled with brown. The voice is small and soft, somewhat like a murmurer; but this is never exerted unless the animal be struck, or otherwise irritated.

The ichneumon was anciently reckoned among the deities of Egypt; and it is at present domesticated in that country, and considered as one of the most useful and estimable of animals; being an inveterate enemy to the serpents and other noxious reptiles which infest the neighbourhood

M. D'Obsonville's account of a tame ichneumon.

of the Torrid zone. It attacks that most fatal of serpents, the *Cobra di Capello*, or hooded snake; and when it receives a wound in the combat, instantly retires, and is said to obtain an antidote from some herb; after which it renews the combat, and almost invariably proves victorious. It is more useful than a cat in clearing houses of rats and mice; and is a great destroyer of the eggs of crocodiles, which it digs out of the sand; and even kills multitudes of the young of those terrible creatures: but it is also an enemy to poultry, and will even feign itself dead to attract them within its reach.

M. D'Obsonville, in his *Essays on the Nature of various foreign Animals*, speaks of one of these quadrupeds which he reared from a young one. "I fed him," says he, "at first with milk; and afterwards with baked meat, mixed with rice. He soon became even tamer than a cat; for he came when called, and followed me, though at liberty, into the country."

"One day I brought to him a small water serpent alive, being desirous to know how far his instinct would carry him against a being with which he was hitherto totally unacquainted. His first emotion seemed to be astonishment mixed with anger, for his hair became erect; but in an instant after, he slipped behind the reptile, and with a remarkable agility leaped upon its head, seized it, and crushed it between his teeth. This essay, and new aliment, seemed to have awak-

M. D'Obsonville's account of an ichneumon.

ened in him his innate and destructive voracity; which, till then, had given way to the gentleness he had acquired from his education. I had about my house several curious kinds of fowls, among which he had been brought up, and which, till then, he had suffered to go and come unmolested; but, a few days after, when he found himself alone, he strangled them every one, ate a little, and, as appeared, drank the blood of two."

These animals are natives of Egypt, Barbary, and the Cape of Good Hope; where they frequent the banks of rivers; and, in times of flood, approach the higher grounds and inhabited places in quest of prey. They are said to swim and dive occasionally, in the manner of the otter; and to remain beneath the water for a great length of time. They sometimes glide along the ground like a serpent, and seem as if without feet; and are frequently seen to sit up like a squirrel. When they sleep, they fold themselves up like a ball; and are not easily awaked.

There is at present (1806), an ichneumon in the menagerie at Exeter 'Change. It was brought from Grand Cairo; and has been in Mr. Pidcock's possession about two years. The keeper informs me that it is fed entirely on the entrails of fowls; of which about two or three ounces suffice for its daily allowance.



CHAP. VII.

“ Her chariot is an empty hazel nut
Made by the joiner *squirrel*, or old grub,
Time out of mind the fairies’ coach-makers.”

SHAKSPEARE.

THE SQUIRREL.

THIS little animal is equally admired for the elegance of its figure, the activity of its motions, and the liveliness of its disposition. Though naturally wild, it is easily domesticated, and, notwithstanding its timidity, it soon becomes perfectly familiar.

The head, body, legs, and tail of the squirrel are of a bright brown colour, inclining to red; but the breast and belly are white. The ears are ornamented with long tufts of hair; the eyes are full, black, and sparkling; and the tail is so long and umbrageous, that it not only assists the animal in leaping from tree to tree, amidst its native woods, but also by covering the whole body, serves as an excellent defence from the cold. Linnæus asserts, that in crossing a river, the

Squirrels' nests.

squirrel places itself upon a piece of bark, and erecting its tail to catch the wind, uses it as a sail, and thus boldly commits itself to the mercy of the waves.

During the spring these animals seem peculiarly active; pursuing each other among the trees, and exerting various efforts of agility. In the warm summer evenings they may also be observed in a similar exercise. They seem to dread the heat of the sun; for during the day, they commonly remain in their nests, and make their principal excursions in the evening, or at night.

The nest of the squirrel is generally formed among the large branches of an umbrageous tree, where they begin to fork off into small ones. After choosing the place where the timber begins to decay, and where a hollow may the more easily be formed, the animal begins by making a kind of level between these forks; and then, bringing moss, twigs, and dry leaves, it binds them together with such art and firmness as to resist the most violent storm. This is covered on all sides; and has but a single aperture at the top, just large enough to admit the little animal; and this opening is itself defended from the weather by a kind of canopy, formed like a cone, so as to throw off the rain. The nest thus formed, is very roomy, soft, and every way commodious. The provision of nuts and acorns is seldom found in its nest; but in the hollows of the tree, carefully laid up together, and where it is never

Furious battles.

touched by the animals but in cases of necessity when no food is to be had abroad. Thus a tree serves both for a residence and a storehouse; and without leaving it during the winter, the squirrel possesses all those enjoyments that his nature is capable of receiving.

The squirrel is a vigilant animal, and it is asserted, that if the tree in which it resides be but touched at the bottom, it instantly quits its nest, flies off to another tree, and thus travels along the whole forest, until it finds itself perfectly out of danger. In this manner it continues for some hours at a distance from home, until the alarm is past; and then it returns by paths that, to almost every quadruped but itself, are utterly impassable. It generally bounds from one tree to another at a very great distance; and if it is at any time obliged to descend, runs up the side of the next tree with surprising facility.

In northern climates the squirrels change their colour, on the approach of winter, and become perfectly grey: and it is worthy of remark, that this alteration will occur in those climates, even within the warmth of a stove.

Squirrels are found in almost every country; but they are most numerous in northern and temperate climates.

THE GREY SQUIRREL.

THIS species is about the size of a young rabbit; and both in form and manners nearly resembles the common squirrel. Its hair is grey, mingled with black; and on each side there is a red streak which runs lengthwise.

These squirrels frequently change the places of their residence; and sometimes not one of them can be found during a whole winter, where there were millions in the preceding year. In their journeys from one part of the country to another, it sometimes becomes necessary to pass a lake or river; which they often do with perfect safety; but if the wind blow strong, or the waves rise high, three or four thousand of them are sometimes wrecked in their voyage.

These animals are said to commit serious depredations among the plantations in North America, but particularly among the maize; for they climb up the stalks, tear the ears in pieces, and eat only the loose and sweet kernel which lies quite in the inside. They sometimes come by hundreds upon a maize-field, and thus destroy the whole crop of a farmer in one night. In Maryland therefore, some years ago, every person was compelled to procure and exhibit annually four fresh squirrels; the heads of which, to prevent deceit, were given to the surveyor. In other provinces, every one who killed a squirrel re-

Rewards for the destruction of squirrels.

ceived two-pence from the public treasury on delivering up its head. Pennsylvania alone paid, from January 1749 to January 1750, no less a sum than eight thousand pounds, currency, in rewards for the destruction of these animals.

They generally make their nests in the hollows of trees, with straw, moss, and other materials: and feed on acorns, fir-cones, maize, &c. as well as on various kinds of fruit. They are said to lay up great quantities of provision for winter: which they deposit in holes beneath the roots of trees, and in other places. They are very difficult to kill; changing their place on the trees with such expedition as generally to elude the shot of the most expert marksman. Their flesh is eaten by some persons, and is reckoned very delicate. The skins are used in America for ladies' shoes, and are sometimes imported into England, for the lining or facing of cloaks.

THE FLYING SQUIRREL.

THIS animal is peculiarly distinguished by a hairy membrane, which extends nearly round the body; and assists it greatly in leaping from one tree to another; sometimes at the distance of twenty or thirty yards. Its head is small and round, and its upper lip cloven; its eyes are full and black, and its ears small and naked. The upper parts of the body are of a cinereous brown; the belly is white, tinged with yellow.

Mode of flying, or leaping.

These quadrupeds associate in flocks; several living in the same tree, which they never voluntarily quit to run upon the ground, but almost constantly reside among the branches. They sleep during the day; but on the approach of night they are very lively and active.

In leaping to a considerable distance, they extend their hind-legs, and stretch out the intervening skin, by which they present a greater surface to the air, and become more buoyant. They are, however, still under the necessity of taking advantage of the lower branches of the trees, to which they leap; as their weight precludes the possibility of keeping in a straight line. Sensible of this, they always take care to mount so high as to ensure them from falling to the ground. Their lateral membranes, when extended, act upon the air somewhat in the manner of a paper kite, and not by repeated strokes like the wings of a bird. The animal, being naturally heavier than the air, must of course descend; the distance, therefore, to which it can leap, depends entirely on the height of the tree on which it stands.

Catesby tell us, that when he first saw a flock of these animals, he supposed them to have been dead leaves blown one way by the wind; but he was soon undeceived, on observing many of them follow one another in the same direction.

The female produces from two to four young; which she nurtures with the greatest affection,

Familiarity—Love of warmth.

and employs her flying membrane to shelter their tender bodies from the cold. They are easily tamed, and soon become familiar: they love warmth, and are very fond of creeping into the sleeve or pocket of their owner; and if thrown upon the ground, they instantly show their dislike to it, by running up and sheltering themselves in his clothes. They use the same food, and form their hoards exactly in the same manner as the other varieties of the squirrel species.

They are found in all the northern regions, both of the old and new continents; but they are more numerous in America than in Europe.

THE JERBOA.

THE jerboa is somewhat less than a rat, and its head bears a near resemblance to that of the rabbit; but it is peculiarly remarkable for the construction of its legs; the fore ones are only an inch in length, and are used as hands, to carry food to its mouth; the hind ones are long, naked, and formed like those of a bird; having only three toes on each. The tail is considerably longer than the body, and terminated with a large tuft. The hair is long and soft, of a reddish colour on the upper parts, and white beneath. They are found in Egypt, Barbary, Palestine and the eastern deserts of Siberia.

Subterraneous habitations.

These animals generally burrow in hard, and clayey ground. They form their subterraneous habitations very speedily, not only with their fore-feet, but with their teeth; and throw the earth back with their hind-feet, so as to form a heap at the entrance. The burrows are several yards long; and run obliquely and winding, but not above half-a-yard deep below the surface. They terminate in a large space or nest, the receptacle of the purest herbs. They have usually but one entrance; yet, by a wonderful sagacity, the animals work from their nest another passage, to within a very small space from the surface, which, in case of necessity, they can easily burst through, and by that means effect an escape.

They are found in troops among the sands and rubbish which surround modern Alexandria; and, in digging the ground, they are said to penetrate even through a stratum of softish stone, which is under the layer of sand. Though not actually wild, they are easily alarmed, and the slightest noise makes them retire to their holes with the utmost precipitation.

Their motions are similar to those of the kangaroo; as they generally move forward on their hind-legs; and, on the approach of any danger, they immediately take to flight, in leaps six or seven feet high, which they repeat so swiftly that a man mounted on a fleet horse can scarcely overtake them. They do not proceed in a

Singular motions—Hunted by greyhounds.

straight line; but run first to one side, and then to the other, till they find either their own burrow, or some adjacent one. In leaping, they bear their tails stretched out: but in standing or walking, they carry them in the form of the letter S; the lower part touching the ground, so that it seems a director of their motions. When surprised, they will sometimes go on all-fours; but they soon recover their attitude of standing on their hind-legs. When undisturbed, they use the former posture; then rise erect, listen, and hop about like a bird. In digging they drop on their fore-legs; but in eating, they generally sit up like a squirrel.

In the kingdom of Tripoli, in Africa, the Arabs teach their greyhounds to hunt the antelope, by previously instructing them to catch jerboas; and such is the agility of these little creatures, that Mr. Bruce tells us he has often seen, in a large court-yard or inclosure, the grey-hound employed a quarter of an hour before he could kill his diminutive adversary; and had not the dog been well trained, so as to make use of his feet as well as his teeth, he might have killed two antelopes in the time of killing one jerboa.

The Arabs have the art of catching them alive, by stopping up the outlets to the different galleries belonging to their colonies, one excepted, through which they force them out. They may be easily tamed, but it is necessary that they should be kept warm. They are so susceptible

of cold, as to foretel bad weather, by wrapping themselves close up in their cage before its commencement; and those that are abroad, always, on these occasions, stop up the mouths of their burrows. They generally come out of their retreats at sun-set, and remain abroad till the morning sun has drawn up the dews from the earth.

M. Sonnini informs us that, while he was in Egypt, he kept six of these animals, in a large cage of iron wire. The very first night they gnawed asunder the upright and cross sticks of their prison; and he was under the necessity of having the inside of the cage lined with tin. They seemed fond of basking in the sun; and the moment they were put in the shade, they clung to each other, as if suffering from the privation of warmth. They had not much agility in their movements; but gentleness and tranquillity seemed to form their character. They suffered themselves to be stroked with great composure; and never made a noise nor quarrelled, even when food was scattered among them. No distinguishing symptoms of joy, fear, or gratitude were discoverable; and even their gentleness appeared the effect of a cold indifference, approaching to stupidity. Three of them died before our author left Alexandria; two died on a rough passage to the island of Rhodes; and the last was lost, and, he supposed, devoured by cats.

It is very difficult to transport these tender animals into other climates; but as an indispen-

Precaution suggested by M. Sonnini.

sable precaution to those who attempt it, Sonnini advises that they be close shut up in strong cages, or other conveniences, without any possibility of escaping; for their natural disposition inciting them to gnaw whatever comes in their way, they may occasion considerable damage to a vessel in the course of her voyage; and, being able to eat through the hardest wood, may even endanger her sinking.

The female breeds several times in the course of a year, and usually produces seven or eight young at a time.

THE HARE.

THIS timid and inoffensive little animal is found in most of the northern parts of the world, and is so generally known as to obviate the necessity of a particular description. It may be proper to remark, however, that, being destitute of weapons of defence, nature has kindly adapted its formation to its dangers and mode of life. Thus, the largeness and prominency of its eyes enable it to perceive objects in every direction; its long and tubular ears may be moved with facility to every quarter, and catch the remotest sounds; and the muscular power of its hind legs gives it a singular facility of running up a hill, while its pursuers are left far behind. The colour

Description, &c.

of the body, resembling that of stubble or fallow ground, is also evidently conducive to the animal's safety. In the northern regions, on the fall of the winter snows, they are said to become perfectly white; and are then enabled, in a great measure, to elude their enemies. Instances, indeed, have been known of white hares in South Britain, and one is said to have been killed in Shropshire so recently as 1797, which weighed upwards of nine pounds. The female has less strength and agility than the male, and is consequently more timid. She is likewise said to practice more arts, and to double more frequently.

As the hare generally lives on the ground, its feet are defended, both above and below, with a thick covering of hair. In a moon-light evening many of them may be seen sporting together, leaping about and pursuing each other; but they are easily alarmed, and on the slightest noise, each scampers off in a different direction. Their pace is a kind of gallop, or quick succession of leaps: they are extremely swift.

The hare generally feeds in the evening, and sleeps in his *form* during the day. In winter their natural instinct leads them to choose a form exposed to the south, to obtain all the possible warmth of that season; and in summer, when they are incommoded by the ardent rays of the sun, they change this for one with a northernly aspect: but in both cases they generally

Surprising instance of fecundity.

fix upon a spot where the immediately surrounding objects are nearly the colour of their own bodies.

Hares vary considerably in size and weight; the smallest are said to inhabit the isle of Ilay; the largest are found in the isle of Man. The Comte de Buffon asserts, that they are larger and stronger in proportion to the coldness of the climate. Their habitual timidity, and perpetual apprehension of danger, preserve them lean; but when domesticated, they have been known to die from acquiring too great a load of fat. Their favourite food consists of birch, parsley, and the bark of young trees. They are said to breed during the whole year, excepting about two months in the depth of winter. The female goes with young one month, and generally produces two or three at a litter, which she suckles about three weeks; but at the expiration of that time, they separate in quest of food, and make their respective forms or seats, about sixty or eighty paces from each other.

As an instance of their fecundity, the Rev. B. Daniel relates, that a brace of hares were inclosed in a large walled garden, and proper plants supplied for their sustenance: at the end of twelve months the garden was examined, and the produce was *fifty-seven* hares, including the original parents.

Wild cats, weasels, foxes, and various birds of prey, are the natural enemies of the hare; the

dog also pursues it by instinct; and man, more formidable than these, employs every artifice to seize upon an animal which constitutes one of the delicacies of his table. It is sometimes killed by hawking, and the Iceland hawk is employed for this purpose; but it is a most refined cruelty; as the hare is so sensible of her enemy's superiority, that she would not stir, were she not impelled by a slow greyhound to keep upon her legs, till the hawk at length makes her his victim.

The Druids, and the Britons of the early centuries, supposed it impious to eat the flesh of these animals: the Romans, however, deemed it a delicious dish; and it is, at present, generally esteemed by Europeans, on account of its peculiar flavour.

The frequent doubles which the hare artfully makes when started and hunted, are equally surprising and curious; and the various stratagems employed to elude the enemy show a wonderful degree of instinct and sagacity. When one of these animals has been chased for a considerable length of time, she will sometimes push another from its seat, and lie down there herself. When hard pressed, she will mingle with a flock of sheep, run up an old wall and conceal herself among the grass on the top of it, or cross a river several times at small distances. Fouilloux asserts, that he has seen a hare start from its form at the sound of the hunter's horn, run toward a pool of water at a considerable distance, plunge



PLATE.

And May 1861, by James Charles Smith.

itself in, and swim to some rushes in the middle; where it lay down, and concealed itself from the pursuit of the dogs. It is remarkable that hares, however frequently pursued, seldom leave the place where they were brought forth, or that in which they usually sit; but may be commonly found, after a long and severe chase, in the same place the day following.

These animals are perfectly gentle, and even susceptible of education. They do not often, however, become perfectly domestic; for, even when taken young, brought up in the house, and accustomed to kindness and attention, they no sooner arrive at a certain age, than they generally seize the first opportunity of recovering their liberty.

Dr. Townson, when at Gottingen, took so much pains with a young hare, as to render it more familiar than these animals commonly are. In the evenings it soon became so frolicsome, as to run and jump about his sofa and bed: sometimes in its play it would leap upon him, and pat him with its fore-feet; or, while he was reading, even knock the book out of his hand. But whenever a stranger entered the room, it always exhibited symptoms of alarm.

Mr. Borlase saw a hare that was so familiar as to feed from the hand, lie under a chair in a common sitting-room, and appear in every other respect as easy and contented in its situation as a lap-dog. It sometimes went out into the gar-

Instances of hares being nurtured by cats.

den; but after regaling itself, always returned to the house as its proper habitation. Its usual companions were a grey-hound and a spaniel; both so fond of hare-hunting, that they often went out together without any person accompanying them. With these animals the hare spent its evenings; sleeping on the same hearth, and occasionally reposing upon their bodies.

Of hares being adopted and nurtured by their natural enemy, the cat, instances have been recorded by the most respectable writers.

“My friend,” says Mr. White, in his *Natural History of Selborne*, “had a little helpless leveret brought to him, which the servants fed with milk from a spoon: about the same time his cat kitted, and the young were dispatched and buried. The hare was soon lost, and was supposed to have been killed. However, in about a fortnight, as the master was sitting in his garden, in the dusk of the evening, he observed his cat, with tail erect, trotting toward him, and calling with short inward notes of complacency, such as they use to their kittens; and something gambolling after her, which proved to be the leveret, that the cat had supported with her milk, and continued to nourish with great affection.

“This strange affection,” continues our author, “was probably occasioned by those tender maternal feelings, which the loss of her kittens had awakened in her breast, and by the ease she derived to herself from procuring her teats to be

Performance of a hare on a public theatre.

drawn, which were too much distended with milk; until, from habit, she became as much delighted with this foundling as if it had been her real offspring."

Dr. Darwin, in his *Zoonomia*, relates, that a clergyman at Elford, near Litchfield, having taken out the young ones, which were alive, from a hare he had shot, gave them to a cat which had just lost her kittens. The animal immediately carried them away, suckled them, and brought them up, as their mother.

As a proof of the hare's docility, it may be observed, that some years ago, one of these little quadrupeds was exhibited at Sadler's Wells, beating with its fore-feet upon a drum, which a person carried round the stage. How so timid an animal could be brought to face a shouting audience, and a glare of light, so unnatural to it, seems very mysterious; but the fact is indisputable.

The fur of the hare is of great use in making hats; for which purpose several thousand skins are annually imported from Russia.

THE RABBIT.

THIS animal, though nearly allied to the preceding one in form and disposition, is a distinct species; and when shut up with the hare, the

Surprising fecundity.

most furious combat ensues till one or the other is destroyed.

The fecundity of the rabbit is still greater than that of the hare; as it breeds seven times in the year, and generally produces seven or eight young ones at a time. On a supposition, therefore, that this happen regularly for about four years, the progeny from a single pair will amount to almost a million and a half. Their enemies, however, are so numerous as to prevent any increase likely to prove injurious to mankind; for besides their affording food to us, they are also devoured by animals of prey, of almost every description. Yet, notwithstanding this, in the time of the Romans they once proved such a nuisance in the Balearic islands, that the inhabitants actually implored the aid of a military force to exterminate them; and soon after called in the assistance of ferrets, which more readily contrived to lessen the calamity.

The rabbit makes for itself a hole or burrow, where it continues great part of the day, and breeds up its young. Previous to the time of parturition, the female enlarges her apartment, and makes a warm and comfortable bed with a quantity of flix, which she pulls from her own body. During the whole of the first two days she never leaves her young, except when pressed by hunger; and then she eats with surprising quickness, and immediately returns. She always

Attentions toward the young.

conceals them from her consort, lest he should devour them; and therefore when she goes out, she covers up the hole so carefully that its place is scarcely perceptible: yet, when they are brought by the mother to the mouth of the hole, to eat such vegetables as she gets for them, the male seems to acknowledge them as his offspring, takes them betwixt his paws, smooths their hair, and caresses them one after another with great tenderness. The maternal attentions continue only one month; as at the expiration of that time the young are able to provide for themselves.

The fur of this animal is principally used in the manufacture of hats; being mixed in certain proportions with the fur of the beaver.



CHAP. VIII.

“ In silent horror o’er the boundless waste
The driver Hassan with his *camels* past;
One cruse of water on his back he bore,
And his light scrip contain’d a scanty store;
A fan of painted feathers in his hand,
To guard his shaded face from scorching sand.
The sultry sun had gain’d the middle sky,
And not a tree, and not a herb was nigh;
The beasts, with pain, their dusty way pursue,
Shrill roar’d the winds, and dreary was the view.”

COLLINS.

THE CAMEL.

THE various qualities of the horse, the cow, and the sheep, seem united in this animal, which to the wandering natives of Arabia constitutes the most desirable earthly possession. The flesh, when young, is excellent food; the milk affords a rich and nutritious beverage; and the hair is superior to that of any other quadruped for making stuffs, coverings, tents, clothes, and other necessary articles.

The names of camel and dromedary do not apply to two distinct species, but only indicate two varieties, the former of which has two protuberances upon its back, whereas the latter has but one.

The height of the camel is generally about six feet, and the body is covered with dusky, or ash-coloured hair. It has a short head, small ears, and a long bending neck. It has a large callosity at the bottom of the breast, one on each knee, and one on the inside of each leg. The feet are flat and tough, divided above, but not quite through, which enable the animal to trace the burning sands without being subject to sores or chaps in the hoof.

In many parts of the East these quadrupeds are domesticated, and, in carrying heavy burdens over the sandy deserts, supply a place which horses would not be able to fill. The sand seems indeed their element, for no sooner do they quit it, and touch the mud, than they can scarcely keep upon their feet, and their constant stumbling in such situations is exceedingly dangerous. Their capability of abstaining from drinking, enables them to pass unwatered tracts of country for seven, eight, or even fifteen days, without requiring any liquid. They can discover water by their scent at the distance of half a league, and, after a long abstinence, will hasten towards it, long before their drivers perceive where it lies. They will travel many days, fed only with a few

Singular faculty of abstaining from drinking.

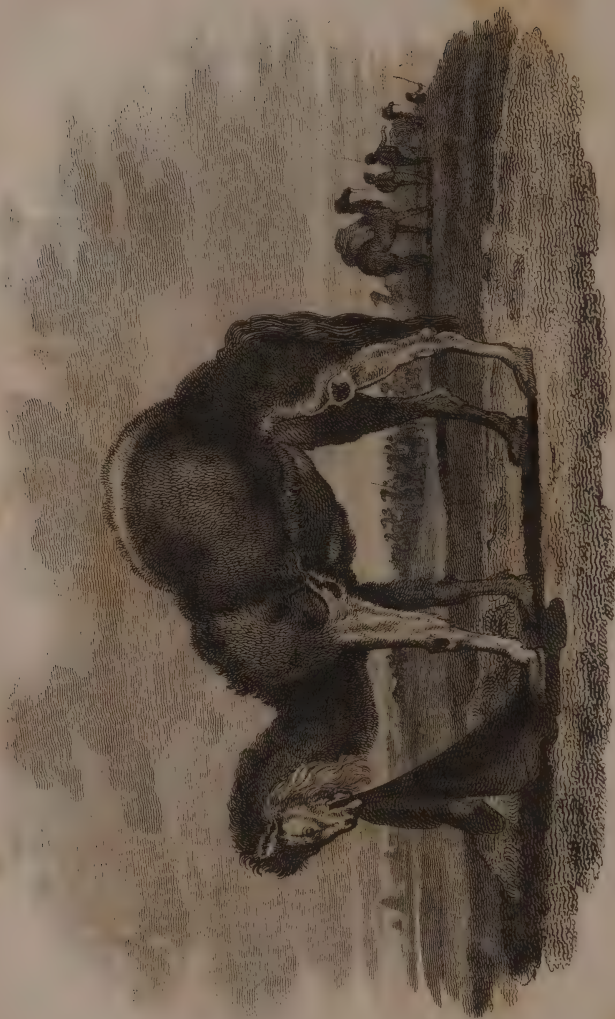
dates, or some small balls of barley-meal; or on the miserable thorny plants they meet with in the deserts. M. Denon informs us, that during his travels in Egypt the camels of the caravan had nothing in the day but a single feed of beans, which they chewed for the remainder of the time, either on the journey, or lying down on the scorching sand, without exhibiting the slightest symptom of discontent. Their surprising power of abstaining from drinking appears, on examination, to be an effect of their internal structure; the second stomach being formed of numerous cells several inches deep, and the orifices apparently capable of muscular contraction. When the animal drinks, it has, probably, a power of directing the water into these cells, instead of letting it pass into the first stomach; and when these are filled, the rest of the water will be kept in that stomach, by which means a quantity of water may be kept separate from the food, serving occasionally to moisten it in its passage to the true stomach, for several days.

When travellers, in Arabia, are greatly distressed for water, they frequently kill a camel, for what he contains; which is always sweet and wholesome.

The customary load of a large camel is a thousand or twelve hundred pounds, and with this it will traverse the deserts, at the rate of ten or twelve leagues a day. When about to be loaded,

CAMEL.

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at the command of the conductor, the animals instantly bend their knees. If any disobey, they are immediately struck with a stick, or their necks are pulled down; and then, as if constrained, they utter a groan of complaint, put their bellies on the earth, and remain in that posture till they are ordered to rise. When heavily laden, they are capable of crossing the deepest and most rapid rivers, and it is very rarely that any accident happens to themselves or their riders in the attempt. If overburdened, they give repeated blows with their heads to the person who oppresses them, and sometimes utter the most lamentable cries.

Notwithstanding their natural mildness and docility, camels are extremely sensible of injustice and ill-treatment, and invariably retain the remembrance of an injury till an opportunity offers for gratifying their revenge. Eager, however, to express their resentment, they no longer retain any rancor, when once they are satiated; and it is even sufficient for them to imagine they have satisfied their vengeance. Accordingly, when an Arab has excited the rage of a camel, he throws down his garments in some place near which the animal is to pass, and disposes them in such a manner that they appear to cover a man sleeping under them. The animal recognizes the clothes, seizes them in his teeth, shakes them with violence, and tramples on them in a rage. When his anger is appeased, he leaves

Sonnini's account of the camel.

them, and then the owner of the garments may safely make his appearance. "I have sometimes seen them," says M. Sonnini, "weary of the impatience of their riders, stop short, turn round their long necks to bite them, and utter cries of rage. In these circumstances the man must be careful not to alight, as he would infallibly be torn to pieces: he must also refrain from striking his beast, as that would but increase his fury. Nothing can be done but to have patience, and appease the animal by patting him with the hand, when he will resume his way and his pace of himself." Like the elephant, these animals have periodical fits of rage, in which they have been known to take up a man in their teeth, throw him on the ground, and trample him under their feet.

When suffered to graze in a rich and fertile pasturage, these animals eat, in less than an hour, as much as serves them to ruminate the whole night, and nourish them during the next day. It is but seldom, however, that they meet with such pastures, neither is this food necessary for them; as they appear to prefer thistles, nettles, broom, cassia, and other prickly vegetables, to the softest herbage.

"Of all animals," says the Comte de Buffon, "that man has subjugated, camels are the most abject slaves. With incredible patience and submission they traverse the burning sands of Africa and Arabia, carrying burthens of amazing

Importance of the camel to the Arabs.

weight. The Arabians consider the camel as a gift sent from heaven, a sacred animal, without whose assistance they could neither subsist, traffic, nor travel. In possession of their camels, the Arabs want nothing, and have nothing to fear. In one day they can perform a journey of fifty leagues into the desert, which cuts off every approach from their enemies. All the armies in the world would perish in pursuit of a troop of Arabs. By the assistance of his camel, an Arab surmounts all the difficulties of a country which is neither covered with verdure, nor supplied with water. Notwithstanding the vigilance of his neighbours, and the superiority of their strength, he eludes their pursuit, and carries off with impunity all that he ravages from them. When about to undertake a predatory expedition, an Arab makes his camels carry both his and their own provisions. When he reaches the confines of the desert, he robs the first passengers who come in his way, pillages the solitary houses, loads his camels with the booty, and, if pursued, he accelerates his retreat. On these occasions he displays his own talents as well as those of the animals. He mounts one of the fleetest, conducts the troop, and obliges them to travel day and night, almost without stopping, eating, or drinking; and, in this manner, he often performs a journey of three hundred leagues in eight days."

A few days after the birth of a camel, his Arab

Education of the camel—Unpleasant motion.

proprietor folds his limbs under his belly, forces him to remain on the ground, and in this situation loads him with a tolerably heavy weight, which is never removed but for a greater. Instead of feeding at pleasure, and drinking when thirsty, the animal's meals are regulated, and he is compelled gradually to perform long journies, and at the same time to submit to a diminution of food. When he has acquired some strength he is trained to the course, and his emulation is excited by the example of horses, which, in time, renders him not only fleet, but more robust than he would otherwise be.

The pace of the camel being a high trot, the rider is obliged to use a saddle which is hollowed in the middle, and has at each bow a piece of wood, placed either upright or horizontally. M. Denon says, that when he was first mounted on one of these animals, he was greatly alarmed lest the swinging motion would have thrown him over its head. He, however, was soon undeceived, for, on being once fixed in the saddle, he found that he had only to give way to the motion of the beast, and then it was impossible to be more pleasantly seated for a long journey, especially as no attention was requisite to guide the animal, except in making him deviate from his proper direction. "It was entertaining enough," says he, "to see us mount our beasts: the camel, who is so deliberate in all his actions, as soon as the rider leans on his saddle, prepara-

tory to mounting, raises very briskly first on his hind, and then on his fore-legs, thus throwing the rider first forward and then backward; and it is not till the fourth motion that he finds himself firm in his seat. None of us were able for a long time to resist the first shake, and we had each a laugh at his companions."

The camel-drivers have each a stick, which they use sparingly, if occasion require; and those who ride, whip their animals with a long strap of leather, at the same time urging them with a clicking of the tongue, the same as Europeans use to their horses.

Some attempts have been made, but without success, to introduce these animals into our West India islands. The people were unacquainted with their habits and manner of feeding; and this, together with the insects called chigoes, insinuating themselves into their soft feet, and producing inflammations, and, at length, painful ulcers, seem to have rendered them totally unfit for service.

The flesh of the camel, though dry and hard, is so much esteemed by the inhabitants of Egypt, that in Grand Cairo and Alexandria, it was, not long ago, forbidden to be sold to Christians. In Barbary, the tongues are salted and smoked, for exportation to Italy and other countries. The hair is an important article of commerce; leather is made of the skin; and in the materia me-

dica of China, all the different parts of the camel occupy a conspicuous place.

THE BISON.

THIS animal has short rounded horns, pointing outwards; a remarkably ample forehead; fierce glaring eyes; a protuberance on the shoulders, almost as high as that of a camel; and a long shaggy mane, which forms a kind of beard under the chin. The fore-parts of the body are excessively thick and strong; and the hinder parts are comparatively slender.

These quadrupeds range in droves, feeding in the open savannahs morning and evening. During the sultry part of the day they repose near shady rivulets and streams of water; frequently leaving so deep an impression of their feet in the moist land, from the immense weight of their bodies, as to be thus traced and shot by the Indians. In this undertaking, however, the utmost caution is requisite, since their faculty of smell is so acute, that the moment they get scent of an enemy, they take to flight; and when wounded slightly, they become perfectly infuriate, and sometimes immolate their unfortunate adversary with their horns and hoofs. With a favourable wind, the hunters approach very near, since the animals are almost blinded by the long hair that

Hunting the bison.

covers their eyes. In taking aim, they direct their piece to the hollow of their shoulder, by which means they generally bring them down at one shot.

With the natives of Canada the hunting of the bison is a very common employment. They draw up in a large square, and commence their operations by setting fire to the grass, which, at certain seasons, is very long and dry. As the fire spreads, they advance, closing their ranks as they proceed. The animals, alarmed by the light, gallop confusedly about till they are so completely hemmed in, that frequently not a single one is able to escape.

In Louisiana the hunters mount on horseback, each being armed with a sharp crescent-pointed spear. They approach with the wind, and, as soon as the animals smell them, they retreat with the utmost precipitation; but the sight of the horses moderates their fear, and the greater part of them, from their luxuriant feeding, are, at certain times of the year, so fat and unwieldy, as easily to be enticed to slacken their pace. As soon as the men overtake them, they endeavour to strike the crescent just above the ham, in such a manner as to divide the tendons, and thus render them an easy prey.

In several parts of South America, the hunting of these animals commences with a sort of festival, and ends in an entertainment in which one of their carcasses supplies the only ingredient.

Prodigious strength and celerity.

As soon as a herd is seen on the plain, the most active of the horsemen prepare to attack them, and, descending in the form of a widely extended crescent, chase them in all directions. After a while they become so jaded and weary, that they seem ready to sink under their fatigue; but the hunters, still urging them to flight by their loud cries, drive them at length from the field: and such as are unable to exert the necessary speed for escape are slaughtered.

To give an idea of the prodigious strength of these quadrupeds, it has been remarked, that in fleeing from a pursuer through the woods, they are frequently known to brush down trees considerably thicker than a man's arm; and they will run through the deepest snow with greater celerity than an Indian could traverse its frozen surface in snow-shoes. "To this," says Mr. Hearne, "I have been an eye-witness many times, and once had the vanity to think that I could have kept pace with them; but though I was at that time celebrated for being particularly fleet in snow-shoes, I soon found that I was no match for the bisons, notwithstanding they were then plunging through such deep snow, that their bellies made a trench in it as large as if many heavy sacks had been hauled through it."

The sagacity which these animals exhibit in defending themselves against the attacks of the wolves is too remarkable to be passed over in silence. When they scent the approach of a

Defence against wolves—Utility of the horns, skin, &c.

drove of those ferocious creatures, the herd forms itself into a circle, having the weakest in the middle, and the strongest ranged on the outside, thus presenting an impenetrable front of horns. If, however, they are taken by surprise, they immediately take to flight, when numbers of those that are most weak and unwieldy fall victims to their savage foes.

The various parts of the bison are capable of being applied to several useful purposes. Powder-flasks are made of their horns; the skin forms an excellent buff leather, and, when dressed with the hair on, serves the Indians for clothes and shoes; the hair is spun into gloves, stockings, and garters; the tallow forms a considerable article of commerce; the flesh is deemed wholesome and nutritious, and the hunch on the shoulders is said to be a great delicacy.

Attempts have been made to domesticate these animals, by catching the calves, and herding them with oxen of the common breed; but, when they grew up, they always became impatient of restraint, and, from their great strength, would break down the strongest enclosure, and entice the tame cattle to follow them. Mr. Pidcock of Exeter 'Change, had one of these animals in his possession about two years and a half; during which it is said to have retained all its native ferocity. The skin is now stuffed, and preserved in the menagerie.

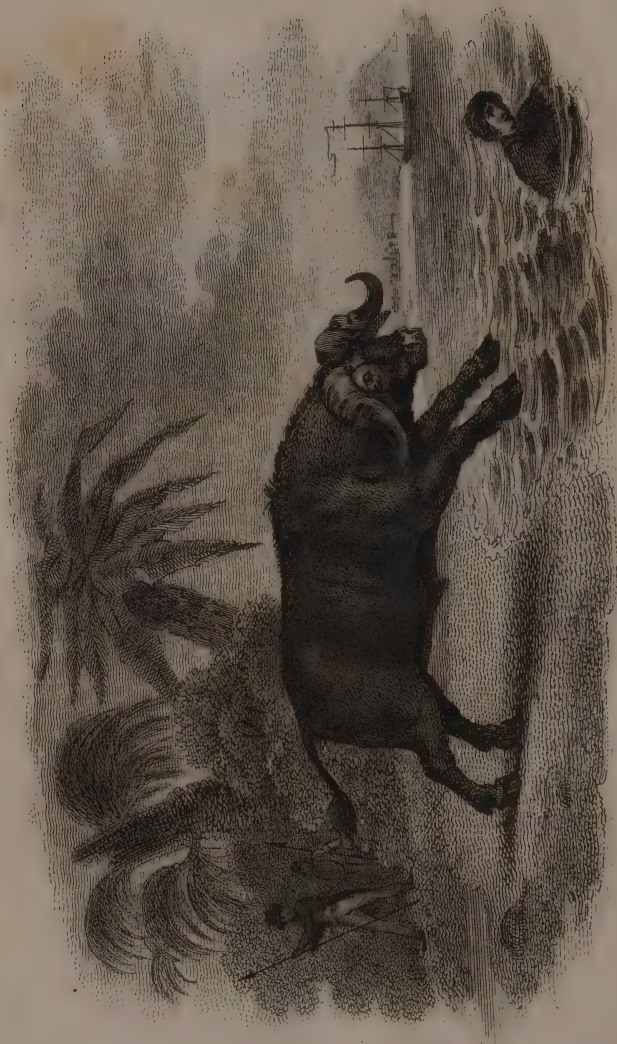
THE BUFFALO.

THIS animal, in its general form, has a striking resemblance to the common ox, but it differs from it in its horns, and in some particulars of its internal structure. The length of the buffalo, according to Sparrman, is about eight feet; and the height five and a half. The limbs, in proportion to the animal's size, are much stouter than those of the ox, and the fetlocks hang nearer the ground. The ears are about a foot long, somewhat pendulous, and in a great measure covered by the lower edges of the horns, which bend down each side, forming a curve upwards with the points. The horns are extremely singular, both in their form and position: the bases of them are thirteen inches broad, and only an inch distant from each other, having a narrow channel or furrow between them; whence they assume a spherical form, and extend over a great part of the head. The hair is of a dark brown colour, and the tail is short and tufted at the end. They are fond of wallowing in mud, and can swim over the broadest rivers with perfect facility. The hunch is not, as many have supposed a large fleshy lump; but is occasioned by the bones that form the withers being continued to a greater length than in most other animals.

Buffaloes are mostly found in the warmer parts of India and Africa, but they have been intro-

BUFFALO.

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duced into some of the countries of Europe, where they are now become naturalized. - They have been perfectly domesticated in Italy, where they are employed in agriculture; and butter and cheese are made from their milk.

In many of the Oriental countries, as well as in Italy, buffaloes are domesticated; and large herds of them may be seen, every morning and evening, crossing the Tigris and Euphrates. They proceed, all wedged against each other, the herdsman riding on one of them, sometimes standing upright, and sometimes couching down; and if any of the exterior ones are out of order, stepping lightly from back to back, to drive them forward.

A remarkable circumstance relative to these animals, is related by those who completed the Voyage to the Pacific Ocean, begun by Captain Cook. When at Pulo Condore they procured eight buffaloes, which were to be conducted to the ships, by ropes put through their nostrils and round their horns; but when these were brought within sight of the ship's crew, they became so furious that some of them tore out the cartilage of their nostrils, and set themselves at liberty; and others broke down even the shrubs to which it was frequently found necessary to fasten them. All attempts to get them on board would have proved unsuccessful, had it not been for some children whom the animals suffered to approach them, and by whose management their rage was

Numerous herds in Caffraria—Cruel disposition.

soon appeased: and when the animals were brought to the beach, it was by their assistance in twisting ropes about their legs, that the men were enabled to throw them down, and by that means get them into the boats. It is also particularly worthy of remark, that they had not been a day on board before they became perfectly gentle.

In the plains of Caffraria the buffaloes are so common that a hundred and fifty, or two hundred of them may be frequently seen grazing in the plains, toward the approach of night; but during the day, they lie retired among the woods and thickets.

Their disposition is equally savage and treacherous: as they frequently conceal themselves among the trees, and wait the approach of some unfortunate passenger, who has no chance to escape but by climbing up a tree, if he is fortunate enough to be near one. Flight is of no avail; for he is speedily overtaken by the furious animal, who, not contented with throwing him down and killing him, stands over him even for a long time afterwards, trampling him with his hoofs, and crushing him with his knees; and not only mangles and tears the body to pieces with his horns and teeth, but likewise strips off the skin, by licking it with his tongue. Nor does he perform all this at once, but often retires to some distance from the body, and returns with

savage ferocity to gratify afresh his savage propensity.

Professor Thunberg informs us, that as he and his companions had just entered a wood in Caffraria, they discovered a large male buffalo, lying quite alone, in a spot that, for the space of a few square yards, was free from bushes. The animal no sooner observed the guide, who went first, than, with a horrible roar, he rushed upon him. The fellow turned his horse short round behind a large tree, and the buffalo rushed forwards to the next man, and gored his horse so dreadfully in the belly that it died soon after. These two climbed into trees, and the furious animal made his way towards the rest, of whom the Professor was one, who were approaching, but at some distance. A horse without a rider was in the front; as soon as the buffalo saw him he became more outrageous than before, and attacked him with such fury that he not only drove his horns into the horse's breast, but even out again through the very saddle. This horse was thrown to the ground with such excessive violence that he expired immediately, and many of his bones were broken. Just at this moment the Professor happened to come up, but from the narrowness of the path, having no room to turn round, he was glad to take refuge in a tolerably high tree. This precaution, however, proved unnecessary; for after the destruction of the second horse the

Attack upon a herd of buffaloes.

buffalo turned suddenly round, and galloped away.

Some time after this our author and his party discovered a large herd of buffaloes grazing on a plain. Being now sufficiently apprised of the disposition of these animals, and knowing that they would not attack any person in the open plains, they approached within forty paces, and fired amongst them: upon which, the whole troop, surprised by the sudden flash and report, turned about, and retreated towards the woods. The wounded buffaloes separated from the rest of the herd from inability to keep pace with them. Amongst these was an old bull, which ran furiously towards the party. They knew that, from the situation of the eyes of these animals, they could see in scarcely any other direction than straight forward; and that, in an open plain, if a man darted out of the course and threw himself flat on the ground, they would gallop forward to a considerable distance before they missed him. These circumstances prevented their suffering any material alarm. The animal, from this contrivance, passed close by them, and fell before he appeared to have discovered his error. Such, however, was his strength, that notwithstanding the ball had entered his chest, and penetrated through the greatest part of his body, he ran at full speed several hundred paces before he fell.

Mode of killing buffaloes in Caffraria.

In Caffraria, these animals are usually killed by means of javelins, which the inhabitants use with great dexterity. When a Caffre has discovered the place where several buffaloes are collected, he blows a pipe, which may be heard at a great distance. The moment his comrades hear this signal they run up to the spot, and surrounding the animals by degrees, throw their javelins at them. This is generally done with so certain an aim that out of eight or twelve, it rarely happens that a single one escapes. Sometimes, while the buffaloes are running off, some of the hunters who stand in the way are tossed and killed; but this is a circumstance not much regarded by the Caffrarians. When the chase is ended, the flesh is cut up, and equally divided among the hunters.

Kolben relates, that a buffalo at the Cape, having been hunted by some Europeans, and driven into a narrow place, turned round, and pushed at one of his pursuers, who had on a red waistcoat. The man, to save his life, ran to the water, plunged in, and swam off. The animal, however, followed him so closely that the poor fellow had no alternative but that of diving. He accordingly submerged his head, and the buffalo, losing sight of him, swam on towards the opposite shore, three miles distant, and would, probably, have reached it, had he not been shot by a gun from a ship lying at a little distance. The skin was presented to the governor of the

Uses to which the horns, skin, &c. are applied.

Cape, who had it stuffed, and deposited among his collection of curiosities.

The most valuable part of the buffalo are its horns and skin; the former having a fine grain, and bearing a good polish, are much valued by artificers; and the latter is well adapted for various purposes in which a strong leather is required. The hide is so thick and tough, that targets, musket-proof, are formed of it; and even while the animal is alive, it is said to be in many parts impenetrable to a leaden musket-ball: balls hardened with a mixture of tin are, therefore, always used, and even these are often flattened by the resistance. The flesh is reckoned excellent eating; and that of the young calves is said to be perfectly delicious. The Hottentots, who never put themselves to any great trouble in dressing their victuals, cut the buffalo's flesh into slices, and then smoke, and at the same time half broil it, over a few coals. They also frequently eat it when completely putrescent.

THE ZEBRA.

THIS animal has a large head and ears, somewhat like those of the mule. Its body is round, well formed, and fleshy; its legs are delicately small; and the beauty of its general appearance is greatly heightened by the glossy smoothness of its skin, and the amazing regularity of its

Account of a zebra exhibited in London.

stripes, which in the male are brown on a yellowish white ground, and in the female black on a white ground.

Zebras inhabit the southern parts of Africa, where vast herds of them afford an agreeable relief to the eye of the wearied traveller. They assemble in the day on the extensive plains of the interior of the country, and by their beauty and liveliness adorn and animate the dreary scene. Such, however, is their watchfulness, that they will suffer nothing to approach them.

All attempts to tame this animal so as to render it serviceable to mankind have been hitherto fruitless. Wild and independent by nature it seems ill adapted to servitude and restraint. If, however, it were taken young, and much care were bestowed in its education, it might probably be in a great measure domesticated.

A beautiful male zebra exhibited some years ago at the Lyceum, in the Strand, was so gentle, that the keeper has often been seen to put young children upon its back, without any attempt from the animal to injure them: and, in one instance, a person rode it from the Lyceum to Pimlico. This unusual docility in an animal naturally vicious, may, however, be accounted for, from its having been bred and reared in Portugal, from parents that were themselves half-reclaimed. Mr. Church, in his Cabinet of Quadrupeds, has stated this zebra to have been burnt from the mischievous act of a monkey.

Female zebra lately in the Tower.

setting fire to the straw on which he lay. The fact, however, was as follows:---The keeper had left the apartment in which it was kept, for the purpose of warming some milk for a kangaroo, when, during his absence, a light from a tin hoop, suspended by a string from the ceiling, unfortunately burned through its socket, dropped upon the straw, and set fire to it. This animal is said to have been purchased by the exhibitor for three hundred pounds.

These animals are principally fed with hay. Their voice is thought by some persons to have a distant resemblance to the sound of a post horn: but it is of so singular a nature that it cannot be accurately described. It is exerted more frequently when the animal is alone than at other times.

The female zebra lately in the Tower, was brought from the Cape of Good Hope by Lieutenant General Dundas, and was purchased by Mr. Bullock, the master keeper of the royal menagerie. She would sometimes permit her keeper to mount upon her back, and would carry him with tolerable docility; but she soon became restive, and obliged him to dismount. He had frequently the utmost difficulty to manage her, from the irritability of her disposition, and the great extent to which she could kick, in almost every direction, with her feet. Strangers could not possibly approach her without manifest danger. She one day seized her keeper by the coat, with her mouth, and threw him upon the ground;

and had he not been extremely active in rising, and getting out of her reach, she would certainly have destroyed him. She died in the month of June, 1805; and her skin is now in the possession of the keeper, though too much decayed to admit of its being stuffed.

THE GIRAFFE, OR CAMELOPARD.

THIS extraordinary quadruped is only found in the sequestered desarts of Ethiopia, and other interior parts of Africa, and even there it has been so seldom seen by European travellers, that its existence has been frequently doubted, prior to the minute and interesting accounts of modern travellers. Its head nearly resembles that of the horse, but is furnished with erect horns, about six inches long; each of these is blunt, as though cut off at the end, and covered with a hairy skin, tufted with a brush of coarse black hair. The ears are very long, and the eyes large, lively, and beautiful. The neck is remarkably long and slender, and has on the ridge a short erect mane, which extends along the back nearly to the insertion of the tail. The shoulders are very deep, which has given rise to the vulgar supposition that the fore-legs are longer than the hinder ones; but this, on examination, proves to be erroneous. When standing with the head and neck perfectly erect, the giraffe measures sixteen or eighteen feet, from the hoof to the

Disposition, food, &c.

end of the horns; and the length, from the tip of the nose to the extremity of the tail is upwards of twenty feet. The colour of the male is a reddish white, diversified with large rusty spots: in the female the spots are of a pale yellow.

These animals appear to be of a mild and timid disposition. When pursued, they trot so fast, that even a good horse is scarcely able to keep pace with them, and they continue their course for a long time without requiring rest. In leaping, they raise first the fore-legs, and then the hinder ones, in the manner of a horse whose fore-legs are tied together. They subsist principally on the leaves of trees, and particularly on those of a peculiar species of mimosa, common in the country where they are found, to which the extreme length of their legs and neck admirably adapt them: but they graze with great difficulty; being under the necessity of dividing their fore-legs to a considerable distance.

It was formerly conjectured that the giraffe possessed neither the power nor inclination to defend itself against the attacks of other animals: but M. le Vaillant informs us, that by its kicks it frequently wearies, discourages, and distances even the lion: its horns, however, are not used as weapons of defence.

From various accounts that have been transmitted to us, the giraffe seems to have been known to the ancients: and Heliodorus, the Greek bishop of Sicca, has given a description

of it, which appears more authentic than those of most of the old writers.

“The ambassadors from the Axiomitæ,” says this prelate, “brought presents to Hydaspes, and, among other things, there was an animal of a strange and wonderful species, about the size of a camel, and marked upon the skin with florid spots. The hinder parts, from the loins, were low, like those of a lion; but the shoulders, forefeet, and breast, were elevated above proportion to the other parts. The neck was small, and lengthened out from its large body like that of a swan. The head, in form, resembled a camel, but was, in size, about twice that of the Lybian ostrich, and it rolled the eyes, which had a film over them, very frightfully. It differs in its gait from every other land or water animal, waddling in a remarkable manner. Each leg does not move alternately, but those on the right side move together, independently of the other, and those of the left in the same manner, so that each side is alternately elevated. It is so tractable as to be led by a small string fastened to the head, by which the keeper conducts it as he pleases, as if with the strongest chain. When this animal appeared, it struck the whole multitude with terror; and took its name from the principal parts of its body, being called by the people, extempore, camelopardalis.”

In the year 1507, one of these animals seems to have been brought to Grand Cairo, in Egypt; for Baumgarten says, that “on the 26th of Oc-

Giraffe seen at Grand Cairo.

tober, looking out at a window, he saw the Ziraphus, the tallest creature that he ever beheld. Its skin was all over white and brown, and its neck was almost two fathoms long. Its head was a cubit long, and its eyes looked brisk and lively; its breast was upright, and its back low; it would eat bread, fruit, or any thing else they reached to it."

The Hottentots hunt these animals principally on account of their marrow, which they consider as a peculiar delicacy; and the flesh is said to be good eating.

THE NYL-GHAU.

THIS animal seems to be of a middle nature between the deer and the cow, but it is as much larger than the one as it is smaller than the other. It is rather more than four feet in height at the shoulder; and the horns are about seven inches long, gradually tapering, and terminating in a blunt point; the male is of a dark grey colour, diversified with white spots on the neck, between the fore-legs, on each side behind the shoulder joints, and on each fore-foot. The neck is furnished with a short, thin, and upright mane; and on the fore part of the throat is a long tuft of black hairs. The ears are remarkably large and beautiful, and the head and legs are similar to those of a deer; the tail is tufted at the end. The female is destitute of horns, and is consider-

Dr. Hunter's account.

ably smaller than the male. She is generally of a pale brown colour, with two white and three black bars on the fore part of each foot, immediately above the hoofs.

The following account of one of these animals is given by Dr. Hunter, in the Philosophical Transactions. "Although the Nyl-ghau is usually reported to be exceedingly vicious, yet the one I had the care of was very gentle. It seemed pleased with every kind of familiarity, always licked the hand, which either stroked it, or gave it bread, and never once attempted to use its horns offensively. It seemed to have much dependance on the organs of smell, and snuffed keenly, and with considerable noise, whenever any person came within sight. It did the same when any food or drink was brought to it; and was so easily offended with an uncommon smell, or was so cautious, that it would not taste bread that was offered with a hand that had touched oil of turpentine or spirits.

"Its manner of fighting was very particular. This was observed at Lord Clive's, where two males were put into a little enclosure; and it was thus related by his lordship:---while they were at a considerable distance from each other they prepared for the attack by falling down upon their fore-knees, and when they were come within some yards, they made a spring, and darted against each other."

The force and intrepidity with which these

Mode of attack,

animals dart against any object may be conceived from the following circumstance. A remarkably large nyl-ghau was feeding in an inclosure, where a poor labouring man, without knowing that the animal was near him, and therefore neither meaning to offend nor suspecting the danger, came up to the outside of the pales. The nyl-ghau, with the velocity of lightning, darted against the wood-work with such violence that he shattered it to pieces, and broke off one of his horns close to the root. This violence was supposed to occasion his death, which happened not long after.

These animals are frequently brought from the interior parts of Asia, as a valuable present to the nabobs, and other great men in the European settlements in India. In some parts of the East, they are considered royal game, and are only hunted by princes, or persons of the first quality.

A nyl-ghau is now (1806) exhibited in the menagerie at Exeter 'Change. It is about six years old, and has been in Mr. Pidcock's possession upwards of three years. It is a very fine animal, but cannot be approached by strangers. In preparing for an attack it always falls on its knees, and butts violently with its head. The keeper informs me that it subsists entirely on hay and corn.

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